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Another report of King Husayn's possible involvement with Iraqi opposition has surfaced. The general coordinator of the Vienna Iraqi opposition conference claims that King Husayn is prepared to receive an Iraqi opposition delegation in Amman "to discuss the required change in Iraq, with the aim of ending the Iraqi people's suffering," Paris Radio Monte Carlo reports. The source added that he heard the king make that statement during a recent meeting in London.

Iraq

A meeting of Iraqi opposition groups set for 20-25 September in Irbil and arranged by Kurdish leader Mas'ud al-Barzani has been mysteriously postponed, according to KUNA and Paris Radio Monte Carlo. Shiite opposition sources in southern Iraq say the meeting was postponed for "only a few days" to allow all the groups to arrive, while other sources say "external factors aimed at sabotaging or even canceling the conference" are the cause. Those "external factors" are said to be linked to "emotional and irresponsible statements against Iraq" made by Kurdish opposition leader Jalal Talabani and other opposition members.

Afghanistan

Afghan President Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar have reached an agreement to call a council of prominent Afghans to choose a new government, according to AFP, which cited an Afghan News Agency report. The decision was made in a recent series of meetings between Rabbani and Hekmatyar, the first meetings between the two men since Rabbani took office in June.

Iran

Tehran radio carried President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Friday sermons, during which he spoke about the dispute over the Persian Gulf islands, saying that "any conflict between Islamic countries" is to the West's advantage. The president said that "our policy is not one of confrontation," but "one of safeguarding our soil." Damascus radio reported that Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' arrived for talks on Abu Musa. He is reported to have said that the "cordial relations" between Iran and the United Arab Emirates will enable both countries "to solve this dispute through cordial and peaceful means." He added that Iran's effort "to preserve stability, tranquillity, and security" in the region "assures us" that the problem will be solved. During a meeting with the president, al-Shar' delivered a message from Syrian President al-Asad. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is reported to have said that "we wish to have friendly and sincere relations with our neighbors." IRNA reported that an official said that Abu Musa will become "one of the most beautiful" Iranian islands.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls for Referendum on Peace Talks

JN1909193292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] With the faltering of the negotiations in Washington and the failure to attain any practical progress, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, has stated that he supports the idea of holding a referendum in the occupied territories on whether or not to pursue the peace process. He added: This is because it is very important that the masses are satisfied and convinced with what is taking place and that the negotiating delegation senses that it is directly tasked by the masses.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi was commenting on the call several Palestinian factions He ruled out that possibility, saying that any withdrawal from the negotiations could negatively affect our stand or cast doubts on our seriousness toward the peace talks.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian source has stated that two members from the Palestinian negotiating team, Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Ghassan al- Khatib will arrive in Tunis today, coming directly from Washington, to consult with the PLO leadership and to assess the current negotiations.

Suggests Shared Legislative Powers

JN1909084892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Salah Salamah, carried within "The Event" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Salamah] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, you have defined three main points over which disagreement persists; in other words, over which there is very strong disagreement. The Palestinian demand to freeze settlement activity is rejected by Israel, and you stick to this demand. You ask for electing a legislative authority in the occupied territories during the self-rule period, and Israel seeks the election of an administrative council. Israel wants to Judaize Jerusalem, and you demand its return to Palestinian sovereignty. So, what is the minimum the Palestinians can accept, and is it possible to reach a specific result on these substantial points?

['Abd-al-Shafi] For our part, we consider the subject of Jerusalem a basic one, and we will never relinquish our right to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the Palestinian identity. The question of settlements is also a basic issue. We do not imagine that we can go ahead without a halt to settlement activity. As for the powers of the elected council—namely, legislative powers—we may be flexible, and we may be prepared to discuss this subject and be flexible concerning this issue since we are in a transitional stage and not in a status of national independence allowing for full legislative powers.

[Salamah] What is the limit of this Palestinian flexibility?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First, we do not want to keep any of the current laws which discriminate against Palestinian citizens. The laws that affect the lives and fate of the Palestinians in the occupied territories should be canceled or amended. Second, we do not want legislative power to remain in the hands of military officers, as is the case now. I say that we are ready to be flexible. I mean that there may be a partnership in legislation but on the basis of, as I said, obliterating all the discriminative laws and not allowing legislative power to remain in the hands of military officers. [passage omitted]

New Israeli Document to Palestinians Detailed

TA2009103292 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Washington peace talks has told the Palestinian delegation that Jordan must take part in the discussions on the permanent arrangement because UN Resolution 242 applies only to states. The resolution does not apply to the transitional period, but Israel claims that it is highly desirable that Jordan be incorporated in the discussions during that period as well. Israel suggests that the Palestinian administration be called the "Palestinian Administrative Council." The council will be subject to an independent legislative system. Hinting at the dispute over the source of its authority, it has been said that the council will answer to the Palestinians who elected it and will not be supported by the Israeli security forces, administration, Israeli residents in the territories, or any other entity connected with Israel.

This has been stated in the second document the Israeli delegation presented to the Palestinians at the beginning of last week, the content of which has been obtained by 'AL HAMISHMAR. Our correspondent notes that the document no longer uses the terms "Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip" and, for the first time, it speaks of "Palestinians."

In the document, Israel announced that it is willing to review all legal decrees regarding the territories and will rephrase them with the Palestinians. Our correspondent notes that one of the major Palestinian objections to the offers Israel has made so far was that they cannot assume self-administration authorities on the basis of the Israeli military regulations, claiming this would turn the autonomy council into a tool serving the Israeli occupation. On another issue, it can be inferred from the document that Israel does not insist that the discussions continue in subcommittees or working groups and that the various issues could be discussed by the full forum.

Israel is offering the Palestinians security cooperation while leaving the responsibility over security matters exclusively in Israel's hands. The document says: "The Palestinian Administrative Council will have several authorities and areas of responsibility... which are security-related, and (in matters) which will have to be confronted jointly, in view of Israel's full responsibility over security."

Israel is also offering cooperation and coordination on issues in which it has an interest, mainly an economic interest. Israel details the part it recommends that Jordan deal with during the interim period. One such issue is legislation. The document stipulates that the law in the territories is already based on Jordanian law. Another matter is "aspects of economic activity in the territories, including banking and monetary matters. [no ending quotation marks as published] The document also speaks of a Jordanian role in the Palestinian police force and in religious matters. Israel is suggesting that a Jordanian liaison committee be set up to deal with matters pertaining to Jordan.

The document stipulates that Israel will be in charge of foreign relations, although the administrative council—with Israel's approval and coordination—will be able to hold powers to conduct a foreign policy in administrative matters devoid of national character.

Israel is willing to set up with the Palestinians a joint committee for human rights matters, but the committee will also have to deal with matters pertaining to mutual goodwill gestures and improving the atmosphere. Israel is also willing to allow the Palestinians access to information on population and land registration, providing that substantive talks open.

Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat has rejected Israel's offers. In an article published in AL-QUDS [date not given], 'Urayqat says that the Palestinians are demanding that Resolution 242 be implemented during the transitional period because Israel wants to establish facts during that period that will have an impact on the outcome of the negotiations over the permanent arrangement. He demands that Israel stop all settlement activity immediately. At the same time, 'Urayqat does not refer to the senior role Israel is offering the Jordanians during the transitional period.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Ghassan al-Khatib have left Washington for consultations with the PLO leadership in Tunis. Palestinian sources have told our correspondent that the United States is pressing the Palestinians to bring Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council, to Washington, but the PLO will not allow this. Also, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, has threatened to resign if al-Husayni takes his position. The sources also reported that 'Abd-al-Shafi presented his opposition to the attempts of PLO member Nabil Sha'th to act as the head of the delegation and insisted that he is the only one in charge of this position.

PLO's Sha'th: 'Gap Remains Wide' at Peace Talks

NC1809202292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Washington, by Shadiyah Riyad in Cairo, carried during "The Talking Newspaper" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Riyad] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks: Recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other Israeli officials gave observers the impression that the Palestine question is now taking a back seat, with Israel primarily concerned about peace with Syria. Do you feel the same?

[Sha'th] In fact, any progress on any Arab front pleases us as long as it results in an end to the Israeli occupation and to the restoration of Arab rights on that front. Progress leading to an Israeli withdrawal does not annoy us. What annoys us, however, is that Israel is using this to obstruct progress on the Palestinian front and, indeed, on the other Arab fronts—the Jordanian and Lebanese. Israel is trying to promote the fact that progress is being made on certain issues, and this has been Rabin's strategy from the very beginning. It first announced progress on our front through the release of some detainees and some other theatrics, but the Israeli Government did not present any real proposals to the Palestinians, and Rabin is using the same language as Shamir. Israel is obstructing any progress based on the terms of the invitations to the talks. This is the problem; the problem is not that progress may be made on one front and not the other.

[Riyad] Is the gap between you and Israel over autonomy proposals still wide?

[Sha'th] Yes, indeed. The Israeli proposals do not mention the land or the geographic framework; that is, all the territory occupied in 1967. Israel continues to exclude Jerusalem completely from all its proposals. The Israeli negotiator still assumes that settlement is Israel's right. He refuses to discuss a freeze to, or a reduction in, the settlement activity. The self-rule authority they are talking about is far short of our demands, but above all, they are not showing any recognition of Resolution 242, which stipulates that the Palestinian territory is an occupied territory from which Israel ultimately must withdraw. Israel is not presenting any plans toward this. Regrettably, the gap remains wide.

[Riyad] But Dr. Sha'th, it was said that the Israelis accepted some amendments, such as increasing the members of the administrative council from 15 to 30 and changing the name of the council from the Council of Self-Rule Administration [majlis idarat al-hukm al-dhati] to the Palestinian Administrative Council [al-majlis al-idari al-filastini]. These amendments may appear symbolic to you, but do they mean anything?

[Sha'th] We have not been informed of the first proposal—expanding the council—at the negotiation rounds; it is being told to newspapers only. As regards the name, we understood they intended to name it, as we named it, the Council of the Palestinian Interim Government [majlis al-hukumah al-intiqaliyah al- filastiniyah]. They took the word Palestinian and added it to their name, calling the council the Palestinian Administrative Council. We fully reject the question of an administrative council. We are talking about an interim council for a real transitional government ruling itself by itself, not merely about an administrative council implementing Israeli policies. Regrettably, the gap remains wide, despite their announcements. I, for example, know that Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin made several statements in Cairo indicating some new moves, but we were surprised at the negotiations hall yesterday that the Israeli delegation mentioned nothing of this.

[Riyad] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, it was said that U.S. President Bush is still calling on the Arabs to end their boycott against Israel as part of the flexibility needed by all sides to reach peace. Do you support this proposal?

[Sha'th] They want flexibility from us only. They are giving Israel all sorts of rewards. Yesterday they proposed the provision of loan guarantees to Israel. All this is happening without achieving any real progress based on the terms set by the United States or by Resolution 242. Before rewarding Israel, we must expect it to offer what it endeavored to give, and what the international legitimacy is demanding from it.

[Riyad] President Bush pledged to intervene to push the negotiations ahead and render them a success. Is the U.S. Administration really doing this?

[Sha'th] So far, such intervention has not taken place, although the U.S. Administration does not deny it is ready to intervene at some point. Up to this moment, however, they have not intervened, and they did not pressure Israel as required by the peace process they are sponsoring. At any rate, we realize this is a tough process. The Palestinian people have been waging a long struggle, and they are still struggling on their land through the intifadah. Thousands of martyrs have been sacrificed, but we realize that political action and negotiations complement this struggle. We will not lose patience. We will continue the struggle and the talks until our objectives are realized, God willing. We will not lose patience.

Al-'Allaf Calls Israeli Demands 'Unacceptable'

JN1909113392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Salah Salamah, carried within "The Event" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Salamah] As you are aware, Israel is demanding a peace treaty with Syria, including diplomatic relations and a border agreement, and is saying that Syria should not seek an Israeli-Palestinian agreement as a precondition. Is it possible to have peace within this formula at the current stage?

[Al-'Allaf] These are preconditions and we reject them. They transcend the peace process. Syria is committed and it is not asked to commit itself to anything more than the provisions of Resolutions 242 and 338, and whatever is based on the principle of returning the Arab territories in exchange for peace. All of Israel's demands are an attempt to complicate and bring up issues that do not fall within the bases of the peace process. All these Israeli demands cannot take place before peace has been established. After the establishment of peace, these things will be left up to time. Time is the only factor that can ensure the establishment of relations of cordiality and friendship. These cannot be imposed on people.

The peace process is based on only two commitments: Israel's commitment to withdraw from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 and, in exchange, the Arab's commitment to end the state of war and establish peace with Israel if it withdraws from all of the territories.

[Salamah] It is clear that Israel is seeking partial settlements. Let us suppose that Israel becomes convinced of the need to withdraw from the occupied Syria Golan. Is it possible to have bilateral peace between Israel and Syria in light of such a move?

[Al-'Allaf] We have said that the peace process is that of a comprehensive peace. If Israeli-Syrian peace can bring about peace in the region, we would have said that this would have been possible to discuss. We are convinced, however, that peace between Israel, on the one hand, and any separate Arab side, on the other, will not establish peace in the region. We are committed to a comprehensive peace on all fronts of struggle. These are the bases upon which all the Arab sides and Israel were invited to the peace process. No, a separate peace is unacceptable. Peace which stipulates partial withdrawal will not be a comprehensive but rather a partial peace. This is also unacceptable.

[Salamah] Israel has proposed a joint declaration of principles with Syria. Is it possible to achieve tangible results from this round of talks, which will end on 24 September?

[Al-'Allaf] This depends on the contents of such a proposal. We cannot speak of joint principles unless we agree, and unless Israel agrees, on principles with the same type, the same concept, and the same logic. If Israel agrees to full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Syrian territories, and accepts comprehensive peace, then the joint declaration you have mentioned could be issued.

[Salamah] One last question, Mr. al-'Allaf. In light of the facts available to you in Washington, do you personally believe that definite, practical results will come out of this round of talks?

[Al-'Allaf] I can say that the Arab sides have undoubtedly shown their seriousness and sincerity. Therefore, the answer to your question depends on the other side, which is currently preventing any progress in the peace process by insisting on unacceptable stands. Were these stands acceptable, and had Israel been allowed to continue to adhere to them, there would not have been any need to come to the peace process. If Israel thinks that it can establish peace with the Arabs without withdrawing from all of the territories, that is by withdrawing only from some of these territories, and without including all the Arab sides to the peace process, then Israel is wrong. Therefore, much depends on the side which occupies the land and which should end the cause of hostility, war, and dispute, making it possible for this peace to find its way to the region after half a century of dispute and a quarter century of occupation.

[Salamah] Thank you, Mr. al-'Allaf for your statements to Radio Monte Carlo.

Progress Reported in Lebanese-Israeli Talks

TA2109084592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Lebanon has agreed, for the first time, to begin to discuss bilateral security arrangements with Israel. These arrangements are slated to be part of a future peace agreement. Eldad Beck reports from Washington:

There have been 33 meetings and almost 100 hours of deliberations, and only now have real negotiations finally begun with the Lebanese. This was the comment, made with some sigh of relief by a senior member of the Israeli negotiating team, regarding the Lebanese agreement to hold a plenary discussion on future security arrangements between the two countries.

In the middle of last week, the Israelis proposed to the Lebanese to set up a joint military committee to negotiate, at the expert level, on the security arrangements that will be determined in the framework of a future peace agreement. The Lebanese, however, feared an Israeli attempt to separate the military committee's deliberations from those of the plenum and insisted that negotiations on the security arrangements be held in the plenum framework. On Thursday, when Israel made it clear that the security discussion would be held in the plenum, the Lebanese announced their willingness to begin the discussion.

Alongside the practical progress, the atmosphere during the deliberations has significantly improved. The Lebanese no longer complain about a disdainful attitude on the part of Uri Lubrani. They also asked for clarifications from Yosef Hadas about a remark he supposedly made about the ability of the Lebanese Army—a remark that Beirut considered offensive. The Lebanese also asked their Israeli interlocutors to refrain from remarks that link progress on the Lebanese plane to progress on the Syrian plane—remarks that put the Lebanese delegation in a difficult situation, because they deal a public blow to Lebanon's sovereignty. Such remarks, Lebanese delegation head Suhayl Shammas made clear, do not make the negotiations easier for us.

Palestinian Working Paper on Water

LD1809111992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Headline: "Text of the comprehensive working paper that the Palestinian delegation submitted to the working group on water"]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: we have come to the second meeting of the multilateral working group on water with an open mind and heart, in the hope that this meeting will see real progress in the peace process. Although we admit that there is a difference, which it appears can be felt in the Israeli [word indistinct] vis-a-vis the bilateral and multilateral talks between the recent and current rounds of talks in view of the formation of the new Israeli Government, we believe that we are right to say that our optimism is characterized by caution and will remain so until we see positive signs of change in the essence of the Israeli attitude, and not just external change in method and form.

In addition, we have reason to reassert the [break in transmission]

A: [break in transmission] through the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora in the working groups on water and the environment. [break in transmission] and therefore their representation should reflect the unity of the people.

B: The participation of a Palestinian delegation in the working group on security, as it is illogical that the people who are in the most need of political and security protection in the region should be deprived of searching for genuine and effective security arrangements for the future.

C: Direct and effective participation of the PLO in all aspects of the peace process, because it is the sole legitimate leadership representing the Palestinian people.

D: The active participation of the UN in the peace process as long as the UN resolutions are a basic source for international legitimacy and because the UN possesses the machinery for preserving legitimacy; furthermore, the varied UN experience throughout the world will be of great value in launching the peace process and in reasserting its credibility and soundness.

E: The setting up of two new working groups, one for Jerusalem and the other for human rights, as we have proposed at previous meetings.

Ladies and gentlemen: the question of water, like the question of land and other natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories, is of critical importance as far as the Palestinian people are concerned. Our

incapability under occupation to exercise our right to water on our land and to our legitimate share of the basin of the Jordan makes any formula proposed to us for a political settlement a mockery, and, by the same logic, such an incapability empties our participation in regional economic cooperation with regard to water of any significance or meaning.

Therefore, the question of water within regional cooperation, which this working group will be dealing with, cannot be separated as far as we are concerned, from the question of water in a bilateral Palestinian-Israeli issue.

The bilateral aspects of the question of water affect the formation of the multilateral aspects so long as it concerns the making available of water for the Palestinian people from their own natural resources, and also from their legitimate share of the water of the Jordan basin on account of being a partner sharing the basin. Furthermore, regional cooperation on water is strongly linked to the water balance of each of the regional sides.

The bilateral water aspect in the project of the bilateral and multilateral talks explains why the Israeli delegation at the Vienna meeting in May completely avoided the bilateral aspects by concentrating on regional aspects—to be precise, on the ways and means of securing the supplies of water from the various regional water sources. Although we do not deny the water shortage in neighboring countries [word indistinct] or underestimate their serious concern for obtaining greater supplies, we are unable to take part in the policy of silence over the usurpation of Palestinian water rights.

This usurpation is more serious, as far as we are concerned. The current shortage of water in Israel and the acute shortage of water to be expected in the future—there was extensive publicity about it—both constitute, to a large extent, what one can truly describe as an artificial crisis. We mean here that the excessive and uneconomical use of water in Israel—particularly in agriculture, as well as the great influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, together produced an intensified Israeli drive to seize Palestinian land and water.

Therefore, it is right and indeed justifiable as far as we are concerned that we insist that any regional solution to the historical problem of the water shortage in Palestine be preceded by a careful examination of the causes of the problem, both on the Israeli and the Palestinian side, before the Palestinian people can be expected to take part in any regional water supply plan, while the Palestinians are deprived of most of their legitimate resources. In other words, if we are going to be a party to regional cooperation on water, our rights to our waters must be recognized in the same way as we are expected to recognize the rights of the other parties. [short break in transmission]

As the working group heard our delegation say at the Vienna meeting, the drilling of wells has been strictly prohibited for Palestinians on their own soil, ever since the beginning of occupation in 1967. Conversely, Israeli settlers have been enjoying, on usurped Palestinian land, no restrictions on green gardens and swimming pools. At present, about 80 percent of the underground waters in the occupied Palestinian areas, which are augmented by rain water in those areas, have been stolen.

On the Israeli market, water is sold for less than its value, and a large subsidy has been given to encourage the raising of the levels of agricultural use of the waters. This cannot go on. The Palestinians have been paying a price for their water that is well over four times what the Israeli settlers have been paying. Briefly, Palestinian water rights have been violated since 1967 by virtue of the Israeli control of water resources, and by diverting and exhausting them.

These violations are directed against the lawful Palestinian share of the water of the Jordan valley and against 80 percent of subterranean waters in occupied Palestinian territories. [short break in transmission]

The working group on the environment will have the chance to hear more on this matter from the Palestinian delegation. We will concentrate at the moment on the economic and social effect.

It is not easy, in a direct manner, to draw up a precise assessment of the economic and social damage caused to the Palestinians as a result of the usurpation of most of the water which they are entitled to control, administer, and exploit. We can, however, resort to some pointers to the extent of the gravity of the caused damage. Thus, a Palestinian is allowed only about a quarter of the annual water supply available to the Israeli behind the Green Line, that is, inside Israel. But this quantity equals only one-sixth of the quantity of water available to the Jewish settler in the Palestinian territories used by Israel. This comprehensive restriction places strict limits on the quantities of water available to the Palestinians for home use. It is certain that this has harmful effects on health conditions and the aesthetics of Palestinian homes and quarters.

As to restrictions on agriculture, they are more acute. Because of the imposed scarcity of water, only 25 percent of the land that could be irrigated in the occupied Palestinian territories are irrigated in fact. This is so not because we do not like irrigation, or because we are unable to practice irrigated agriculture; it is because the water available to us allows only this small percentage of irrigation.

As opposed to this, Israel's irrigation of agriculture covers (?95) percent of land that can be irrigated behind the Green Line.

It is certain that the situation will become more gloomy and more critical by the end of the century, and will become tragic by the end of the first decade of the 21st century. The population of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, totalling about 1.9 million today, is expected to reach 2.4 million by the year 2000, according to the prevailing natural population growth of 3.2 percent a year. If we add to this

figure the return of the persons who left as a result of the Israeli occupation in 1967, who were at the time at least 300,000 people, but number today about 650,000-700,000 persons at the aforementioned natural growth rate, the population will exceed three million people, even if we exclude from our estimates the number of 1948 refugees, which is much greater, who will require water upon their return, a matter which will create a critical shortfall in this water resource.

On the basis of the justified assumption that the use of water at home will increase to achieve the internationally acceptable level per person: 25-75 cubic meters annually, the Palestinians will need 225 million cubic meters of water a year for home use alone, against the 45 million cubic meters available to them at present.

If we ignore, for the purposes of the present offer, the increasing needs for the processing industry, tourism, and other sectors, and concentrate only on the future agricultural needs for water, we will arrive at a final shortfall in the quantity of water. If we suppose the expansion of the irrigated area in the year 2000 from 25 to 50 percent and if we suppose that one dunam requires 750 cubic meters annually, the water requirement will be 300 million cubic meters annually for the irrigation of 400,000 dunams. By the end of the century, the total domestic and agricultural requirement will be at least 535 million cubic meters.

Although the volume of water referred to above immediately amounts to two and a half times the volume currently being used in the occupied Palestinian territory, it will remain within the resources of water available from the subterranean basins in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as the Palestinians' share of the Jordan basin.

It is therefore of decisive importance that the Palestinians exercise their (?chance) to control and manage water and its use—these are their rights according to international law, The Hague Accords, and the Fourth Geneva Treaty, as well as UN resolutions—so that they not to continue to suffer from a great deficit in water. This concerns the present and future from the point of view of the complete [word indistinct] returns of Palestinian water resources.

Furthermore, the Palestinians have the right to be compensated for the damage they sustained during the occupation, which is manifested in the [word indistinct] of the opportunity to use the water of which they were deprived.

This is neither the time nor the place for calculating the cost of this opportunity, as long as there are other factors for the damage that ought to be taken into account, too—such as the lost income as a result of the nonuse of the land confiscated by Israel. We only want to point out that the Palestinians have the right to a vast compensation if a just and permanent settlement is to be realized with Israel.

From the Palestinian point of view, we tried to place regional cooperation on the question of water in its correct context. Regional cooperation based on solid foundations should be developed from its national base, first, and precisely on the basis of water rights in occupied Palestinian territory. If this basis of rights continues to be challenged, the matter should then be referred to an international commission on water rights in order to be tested. At the present time, and for the sake of preliminary aims, it suffices to establish a working sub-group on the question of water to study the issue of water rights; it may be necessary too to set up another working subgroup to carry out fact-finding technical work.

In conclusion, our delegation would like to reassert its position, which was previously declared in Vienna and to express its readiness to cooperate with the sides concerned to search for alternative and additional water sources. But our delegation would also like to express its reservations regarding the [words indistinct] of the probable regional solutions for the question of water. Thus, we regard the discussion of the technical details of the regional solutions—while the Palestinians' rights to their water resources are still being usurped—as a premature issue [words indistinct], and thus the real volume of the problem can be ascertained. [words indistinct] and when the suitable opportunity for studying the principles and formulas of the regional cooperation on water arises, then this study will be possible, and then the national rights of each party will be taken into consideration, and that will guarantee [words indistinct].

In short, we propose to this distinguished gathering three conditions whose fulfillment will be beneficial, so that discussion of regional cooperation on water will be well-intended and in the right direction:

A: No party or country within the regional framework will remain deprived and be deprived of its national inalienable right to self-determination. One of the fundamental constituents of the latter is economic self-determination and control over national resources and their management and use.

B: It is essential that legitimate and well-justified requirements and use and logical requirements for the foreseeable future of any side should be set against the available water resources before efforts are made and plans are drawn up for searching for additional supplies from neighboring countries or others in the region.

C: Any water sought from outside the national frontier should be obtained according to conditions to be agreed upon by both suppliers and consumers—conditions which should be determined voluntarily and fairly, and not under pressure or through military or political blackmail, or any form of duress.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Peace Talks, Abu Musa, Iraq

LD1709143792 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by Noureddine Hadj Salim]

[Excerpts] Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd al- Majid, who was participating in the 51st session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, held a news conference this afternoon during which he reviewed a host of issues that concern Arab countries. The secretary general affirmed the Arab League's support for the Arab delegations in the talks with Israel, which are essentially aimed at regaining usurped Arab rights. He added that the Arab countries will not concede these rights, because they are in the right and due to the Arab negotiator's belief in those rights. In this context he praised the ability of the Arab negotiators. [passage omitted]

Regarding the issue concerning Iran's occupation of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the secretary general said the issue was submitted to the Arab Foreign Ministers' Council, which convened recently in Cairo.

Regarding the tragic situation in Somalia, Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said the Arab League adopted steps to help the Somali people in their current ordeal and that these are to provide food and to send volunteer doctors. [passage omitted]

About the situation in the Gulf, Dr. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the Arab League rejected the partitioning of Iraq and was eager to safeguard its territorial integrity and that it was making efforts to ease the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the imposed blockade.

Arab Information Ministers Council Holds Session

Committee Formed To Meet Islamic 'Terrorism'

NC1909203692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Arab Information Ministers Council, currently in session, today approved Egypt's proposal that a special committee of media experts be set up to discuss an information policy to confront terrorism perpetrated in the name of Islam while being in conflict with the Islamic shari'ah.

The council also decided to urge the Arab countries to hold a conference for Islamic ulema on this subject. It also decided to add to the agenda an item on the Libyan-Western crisis. It includes the council's appreciation for Libya's method in handling the crisis and a call for a peaceful solution.

MENA also learned that the council unanimously approved a request by United Arab Emirates [UAE] Information Minister Khalfan al-Rumi to discuss Iran's occupation of the UAE islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra, to stress support for the UAE's legitimate right to these islands and to counter Iran's allegations in this respect.

MENA also learned that the council approved the request of Ma'tuq al-Ma'tuq, the head of the Libyan delegation to the conference. The Tunisian information minister also requested that an item on terrorism and religious extremism be added to the agenda of today's first session. He urged concerted Arab media efforts to counter the serious phenomenon of terrorism and extremism.

Council Views Role in Abu Musa

NC2009183792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] During its final session this evening, the Arab Information Ministers Council affirmed that all the Arab media adhere to performing their pan-Arab role regarding the illegal Iranian presence on the Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The council focused on the UAE's firm and historical right in this regard. It affirmed its adherence to and support for the Arab League resolution, the decision taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries' foreign ministers, and the statement issued by the Damascus Declaration countries' meeting on this subject.

The Arab League's Information Ministers Council also affirmed the importance of having Arab media affiliates provide support for Libya's stand in their treatment of the Libyan-Western crisis. The council praised Libya's stand in dealing with this crisis. The Arab Information Ministers Council affirmed the importance of the role of the media in confronting terrorism and extremism irrespective of their doctrinal, social, or racial motivations, since they divert from the essence of religion and threaten stability. The council decided to form a committee of media experts to investigate terrorism and extremism and propose media measures and programs to confront them.

With regard to the Palestinian intifadah, the council affirmed the importance of continuing Arab media support for the intifadah and its objectives and the need for the media to continue concentrating on the dangers of Jewish settlement in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, as well as the dangers of the continuing Jewish emigration to these territories and their settlement in them. The council affirmed that this emigration greatly threatens the future of the occupied territories, the Palestinian people, and their firm right to their homeland and territory.

The council affirmed the importance of supporting the southern Lebanon cause. It also approved the new Arab media system, as well as supporting Arab-African cooperation. It also stressed the need to hold a joint meeting of the Arab and African media organizations.

Iraqi Envoy Urges Change in Resolution

NC2009210292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—In the resolutions they issued today, the Arab information ministers called on the Arab media and affiliates to perform their pan-Arab

role regarding Iran's occupation of the islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], with special emphasis of the UAE's historical and firm right to these islands, and to confront all Iranian campaigns and claims concerning this matter.

Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, demanded during today's session that the clause in the resolution condemning Iran's occupation of the UAE islands be changed from "the illegal Iranian presence in the islands" to "the Iranian occupation of the islands."

Egypt, Kuwait, and the UAE agreed to change the clause at Iraq's request.

Official Urges Arabs To Oppose Border Changes

NC1709200792 Paris AFP in English 1517 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 17 (AFP)—A senior Gulf official has urged Arab states to follow the example of African countries in opposing any change in their borders, in a bid to end long-standing territorial disputes.

"We have the experiment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which has decided to accept the borders as they are and as they were designated by colonial powers," said Sayf ibn Hashil al- Maskari, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) assistant secretary general for political affairs.

"Don't we have the courage to follow the example of this experiment," he asked in an interview Thursday with the United Arab Emirates weekly AL-ISLAH, an Arabic language Islamic magazine.

According to its charter, the OAU rejects any change in existing borders between its members, some of which have gone to war over territorial problems.

Most Arab countries have long-standing border disputes, including the GCC, an economic and defence alliance created in 1981 by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Palestinians Reject Israeli Proposals

LD1809200692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that our Palestinian people totally reject Israel's proposals tabled during bilateral negotiations regarding the administrative rule that has nothing whatsoever to do with the Palestinian state and its attempt to keep away the issue of Jerusalem from the talks. This statement was made at the seminar organized by Fatah's intellectual affairs and studies office under the title "The Intellectual and the Revolution" to mark the first anniversary of brother martyr Muhammad Isma'il.

During his speech, brother Abu-'Ammar said that our Palestinian people and negotiating delegation are committed to the Palestinian constants as defined by the peace initiative that resulted in the participation in the Madrid meeting; on the need for a halt to settlements, particularly in Jerusalem; and holding legislative elections inside the occupied land, which would pave the way for establishing an independent Palestinian state.

Brother Abu-'Ammar praised the heroism and heroic intifadah of our people. He singled out hero 'Abir al-Wahidi and all heroes, revolutionaries, and martyrs of our people who are confronting the occupation. He said that there will be no let-up nor bargaining over the rights of our Palestinian people, foremost of which is Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state.

Delegation Chief, 'Ashwari Consult With 'Arafat

LD2009073292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prior to the resumption of the sixth round of the peace talks in Washington tomorrow, two members of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations in the U.S. capital—namely, delegation chief Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's official spokeswoman—arrived in Tunis yesterday. The purpose of their visit was to hold consultations with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat about the latest developments in the negotiations and the determination of the Palestinian delegation's position in light of Israel's refusal to implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

For his part, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO's Information Department, stated yesterday that the Palestinians will do their utmost to achieve real progress in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. He added that the PLO will not, however, abandon its legitimate demands.

Meanwhile, in Amman, the Jordanian prime minister had talks yesterday with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas about the progress of the Middle East peace talks. After the meeting, the two parties expressed their adherence to the principle of land for peace and the need for Israel's implementation of UN resolutions.

Executive Committee Member on Negotiation Strategy

LD1809175392 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Taysir Khalid, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that the committee did not discuss or approve the draft framework agreement that was submitted by the Palestinian delegation to the Israeli delegation during the sixth round of peace talks. He affirmed that that was [word indistinct].

In a press statement, Khalid said the negotiation strategy established by the Executive Committee was based on Palestinian constants and fundamental principles, which

in turn are based on UN Security Council Resolution 242; the need for halting the building of settlements; and the Israelis' obligation to implement the Geneva agreement on dealing with Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

He said the Palestinian delegation called for emphasis on one item in the agenda during the talks: implementing Resolution 242 with respect to the occupied Palestinian territories and [word indistinct] this vital issue, and refraining from preoccupation with the details put forward by the Israelis.

Mahmud 'Abbas on Peace Talks, PLO's Role

JN2009144692 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 92 p 19

[Report by Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the higher Palestinian committee for negotiations, said: We started the negotiations on clear bases, principles, and references, and our negotiating delegation is sticking to all of these elements.

'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, told AL-DUSTUR: If one round of talks does not realize anything, this does not mean that the negotiations have failed.

The PLO official added: We have to take into consideration Israel's procrastination and the Israeli's games in the other Arab tracks of negotiations.

Replying to a question, Abu-Mazin said that a referendum will be held on the results of the negotiations because these results deal with future of the Palestinian people and they have a right to have a say in them. He also said that what is going on in Washington is but one stop along a long path since we are negotiating with a fierce enemy that controls the land and people. The negotiations are still in their early stages even though 10 months have passed since the beginning of the political process.

Abu-Mazin added: The negotiations will take a long time. What is said at the negotiations is not important; results are what is important. These results cannot be accepted before they are approved by the legitimate establishments of the PLO.

He said: The organizations that oppose the peace talks should wait, participate, and express their fears within official PLO establishments rather than from outside.

Regarding the position of the conference's cosponsors, Abu-Mazin said: We ask the U.S. Administration and the Russians to interfere in the negotiations now, and not to wait until progress is realized because such progress may never occur without their interference. We only ask them to implement their pledges and the resolutions of international legitimacy to which we are all committed.

He added: In fact, I do not view the U.S. elections as something fateful. We participated in negotiations before the Israeli elections were held, and we are prepared to continue the negotiations whatever the results of the U.S. elections. We will not suspend the negotiations until the elections are held because we will have to deal with the U.S. Administration, regardless of who is the next president in the White House.

On his talks with Russian officials, Abu-Mazin said: We asked them to interfere as a second sponsor to advance the negotiations. He added: There is a new and active Russian role, and this makes us optimistic that this role will be effective in the current stage of negotiations.

Abu-Mazin said that during his meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir yesterday morning, he briefed him about the results of his talks with Russian officials and exchanged views with him on what is currently going on in Washington.

OPEC Affairs

Iran Rejects OPEC Decision

NC1809115392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Telephone report by correspondent 'Alizadeh in Geneva on 18 September—recorded]

[Text] The ninth session of the OPEC Supervisory Committee ended last night in Geneva, issuing a vague press statement, in which OPEC's production ceiling for the fourth quarter of 1992 was increased from about 23 million barrels a day to 24.2 million barrels a day.

Instead of using the term production ceiling, used in OPEC statements so far, the statement—which allows Kuwait to use all its capacity for additional production—uses the term OPEC market share.

Oil experts say that by not clearly stating the production quota of each OPEC member in its press statement, the possibility of achieving the OPEC marker price is virtually ruled out.

Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i attended a news conference and radio-television interview last night in which he rejected the statement and discussed its weak points. Our petroleum minister first pointed out that this statement will not help increase oil prices in the world market and added: The conclusion that has been drawn is unacceptable to us. Engineer Aqazadeh-Kho'i stressed that the statement does not clarify what the members should do and that the conclusion drawn from it is that the difference between the former production ceiling of 22.9 million barrels and the current production ceiling of 24.2 million barrels should be covered by countries that have the capacity for additional production.

He also pointed out that while the production capacity of the Islamic Republic of Iran has gone beyond the 4-million-barrel-a-day mark, our country will regulate its production in the coming months on the basis of market demands.

Elsewhere in his remarks, our petroleum minister pointed to the drop in the dollar's value on the world market and its impact on the income of OPEC members and said:

[Begin Aqazadeh-Kho'i recording] The sharp drop in the dollar rate was yet another problem in the current situation. If we want to compensate only for the drop in the dollar rate, we must increase prices by $2-$3. [end recording]

Pointing out that the average oil price in 1992 was $18, Engineer Aqazadeh-Kho'i said: The Geneva conference was a good opportunity for OPEC to stabilize production and to achieve the $21-per-barrel marker price. Unfortunately, the OPEC members are not serious when it comes to increasing prices, and I discussed this with them in earnest.

Following news of OPEC's decision to increase its production ceiling last night, oil prices dropped on world markets.

Elsewhere in his news conference, Aqazadeh-Kho'i informed correspondents of two new reports—one on the agreement to expand the South Pars gas reserves, the other on the spectacular increase in our country's production capacity. Based on an agreement signed with three Italian, Japanese, and Russian companies to expand the South Pars gas reserves once the first phase of this plan becomes operational within the next four years, 1 billion cubic meters of natural gas will be extracted annually. The capacity of the South Pars gas reserve, discovered two years ago in a common area with the Qatari Emirate, has been estimated at over 100 trillion cubic meters in the areas belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our petroleum minister also stated that our country's oil production capacity in the current month went beyond the 4-million-barrels-per-day mark and that this capacity is expected to reach the 4.5-million-barrels-per-day mark by next Farvardin [month beginning 21 March 1993].

Algeria

Ali Kafi Addresses Groups on Current Problems

LD2009215392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1907 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Address by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi before government members, the National Consultative Council, and heads of national associations and organizations in Algiers on 20 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Citizens: I am addressing you for the second time since I assumed the responsibility of leading the Higher State Council. It is imperative, given the country's circumstances, that the citizens know the stance and orientations of the leadership regarding the current events and general situation in the country, and that the leadership know the preoccupations and concerns of citizens. Under such circumstances, and in facing a joint responsibility, the leadership and the citizens are facing up to a grave situation, which affects the stability of the country, the security and safety of the homeland, and the entity of the state.

It is imperative that we all be determined and firm in facing up to this situation. The Higher State Council, since it took up its duty under the leadership of the late Mohamed Boudiaf, undertook a specific responsibility to get the country out of its critical situation, which is characterized by the destruction of the national economy and the weakening of the pillars and institutions of the state and which has affected the citizen's morale.

The Council is embarking on this task in reliance on the soundness of the national and civil sense of the Algerian citizen in its confidence in the material potentials of the country—in the country's material and human potentials and in reliance on the ability of the Algerian people to meet the challenge, and to rise up to the level of the difficulties and the major events.

However, evil forces have been lying in wait for this safe country. They formed a distorted democratic front; they exploited the difficult economic situation and the hesitant attitude of the state in order to put off the Council from discharging its task in an atmosphere of civil peace and secure stability. They dragged the country into a chain of terrorism and violence, and into taking the lives of innocent people and sabotaging the economic, social and cultural achievements which are among the gains of the people. They launched an assault on public funds by force. Neither the security men, the state, nor the children and women were spared. Neither the civil airport, the university institutions, nor the libraries were spared.

They harmed national symbols. They went as far as violating and digging up the sacred graves of the martyrs of the liberation revolution. The height of these crimes was in the treacherous assassinations or rather the treacherous and cowardly assassination of the brother president and martyr Mohamed Boudiaf—this great man who devoted his life to the homeland and the freedom of the people. He was always ready to give his life with honor for the sake of the happiness of his people and the security and safety of his homeland.

This criminal assassination made the Council more determined to persevere in the path it set for itself since its creation, and it faced the Higher State Council with more important responsibilities. The Council is determined to shoulder them fully whatever the difficulties. This responsibility makes it necessary for the Council to face up to terrorism with every determination, and the Council will mobilize all material, human, and legal potentials to eradicate this vicious disease once and for all from our country.

We are aware of the worries felt by the citizen toward these criminal acts when he sees every day innocent people being killed, property endangered, and national assets savagely sabotaged as if they are not Algerian property for whose edification we have all fought. The Algerian people, known for their courage and noble traditions of forgiveness and solidarity, reject acts of betrayal and treason. They will undoubtedly know how to defend the material and moral gains for which they paid dearly at a time when they are daily unveiling the true intentions of the perpetrators of these acts.

The blood of the Algerian people, much of which was spilled by the colonists as a sacrifice for freedom, the homeland and dignity, cannot be spilled today in order to satisfy the appetites and ambitions of obscure forces which, in the final analysis, only serve the enemies of Algeria who are interested in destroying the Algerian state and in wiping out the achievements of the national struggle over one and a half centuries so as to settle the score with the giant and triumphant Algerian revolution and to lead Algeria and the Algerian people into a state of disunity, submission and inability to respond.

The Algerian citizen would like to live in independent Algeria in full dignity, comfort, and safety; he refuses to see an atmosphere of terrorism, fear, and lack of security reign in his country. The Higher State Council regards it as its essential duty to respond to those needs. The Higher State Council will announce over the next few days new laws which allow the competent authorities to confront violence and terrorism with efficiency. I said, the Higher State Council will announce over the next few days new laws which allow the competent authorities to confront violence and terrorism with efficiency and firmness and to confront the issues of smuggling, of those quarters which try to bleed the country dry of its wealth and which take lightly the livelihoods of citizens, and also of acts of bribery and free play with the country's higher interests.

There will not be any forgiveness for these evil gangs which are sapping the country's strength and exposing its security and stability to danger.

It is clear that these laws which are directed against terrorism in all its forms are not intended to undermine

political activities, freedom of expression, or the citizen's basic liberties in an atmosphere of peace and order.

The state institutions which are in charge of public security will remain the main deterrents of the forces of evil, and defenders, with gallantry and honor, of the safety, security and stability of the country and the security of the citizen. [passage omitted]

It gives us pain and breaks our heart that the country should be pushed into a fire of violence, terrorism, and criminal acts in the name of Islam; our true religion—the religion that has always brought us together since it was adopted by our forefathers and which we resort to during ordeals. Can we now accept sedition to be planted and lives taken away in the name of Islam; the religion of mercy, forgiveness and spiritual and moral excellence? Combating violence, terrorism, bribery, and usurpation is to act in defense of our Islam and its noble values.

We will not permit anyone to tarnish Islam or use it as a means of realizing personal earthly power-seeking aims. We reject that Islam should be an object in the political one-upmanship market. We will defend our noble religion with all strength, as our forefathers defended it with honor so that Islam may remain always a symbol of and the force of our unity, the pillar of our personality, the title of our identity, and our protector from sedition and inner fighting.

The institutions of the state, with their various bodies and branches which we seek to reinforce, will remain the main wall in the face of all the attempts aimed at the structures of the state and society. Those who are in charge of these institutions must shoulder their full responsibilities, with all the severity required by the situation. They must face up to those who try to undermine the state from inside.

The Council recalls that the state agents are in the service of the state and the citizen, and that they are the main guarantor of the good functioning of the institutions of the republic. They must stay away from power and party-related strife. Their loyalty must always be for the homeland and the state, and we will seek to preserve their full rights to dignity and stability in their places and posts. Our workers and cadres should firmly defend their institutions. We will study with all interest the situation of the cadres who have been unjustly set aside or were pensioned off early.

Citizens, men and women, at a time when the Higher State Council is dealing with the security issues and is tending to the provision of reassurance to the citizen, it is endeavoring to edify a democratic system which guarantees the freedom of choice for the citizen away from all aspects of material and moral pressure, secures fundamental liberties, protects human rights, and allows the anchoring of sound foundations for a modern and strong state on the basis of a republican and democratic system which extirpates violence, terrorism, religious exploitation, and regional chauvinism, and which keeps the state institutions away from the partisan and ideological conflicts, so that the state belongs to all Algerians, not to parties, or clans, or a handful of people driven by their personal interests. We want a democratic system which takes into account the conditions and the facts constituting our society, and our geographical and political environment, and which sufficiently guarantees the safety of our national components and constants and their historical, civilized, and spiritual dimensions.

It is certain that any serious endeavor for such a system to which our people aspire would require putting a final halt to sabotage acts, fully recovering the state prestige, and putting in place all the legal and organizational mechanisms so that the people's choice takes place in full transparency and within the framework of peace and order. This also requires the provision of conditions for overhauling the national economy, consolidating the international place of Algeria, and reducing the weight of the external financial and economic pressures.

In this manner democracy will be a real expression of the aspirations of our people and in harmony with the development attained by society. It also will be a response to this development itself, and not an apparent propaganda-aimed display to mislead national public opinion and to cover up the real problems faced by society. There is no room for struggle, fighting, and rushing in for power, nor is there room for glittering appearance meant for abroad.

In order to arrive at the objective conditions for setting up a sound democratic system and getting out of the crisis situation, the Higher State Council is continuing its consultations with the political and social parties, with the political forces, the popular cadres and organizations, the civil societies, and with the scientific and cultural public figures, i.e. with all the forces that have the wish and sincere and honest will to take the country out of the current crisis situation. Our wish is that there will be a sincere and honest national will to arrive at a form of national consensus that will give the country the necessary delay to resolve its problems, enable it to get out of the crisis in adequate conditions, protect it from marginal disputes, bring back to it tranquillity, and protect it from foreign bargainings and pressure.

While we have been striving to give the opportunity for abandonment of acts of violence and seeking arbitration with the national conscience and the supreme interests of the country, there cannot be any discussion with or concession to those who engage in violence, terrorism and acts of sabotage, those who incite for assassinations, or those who, by their positions, behavior, and statements, politically and financially support the forces that practice or stand behind terrorism, and those who do not shun resorting to foreign forces which still bear evil and hostility to Algeria.

Within this wide consultation, the Patriotic Rally which, by virtue of its expectations and orientations, emerges as a [word indistinct] force which seeks to renovate the

national project and which essentially addresses itself to the depth of live Algeria and the youth and represents an exemplary arena for wide and rich dialogue for discovering the future. It emerges as an effective tool for renovation and change and for effecting a break with monotony and bureaucratic methods. [passage omitted]

Citizens, facing up to the issues of security, dealing with them and seeking to provide the objective conditions for restoring political stability make us all the more aware of the urgency to restore the national economy and to attend to such pressing social issues as employment, training, housing, public health, and the various problems suffered by the citizens in villages and rural areas. [passage omitted]

We must bear them with an awareness so that the crisis may not become deep-rooted and difficult to solve, become a burden on the future of our sons, or force us to pawn the future of our sons. While we enter the international market and participate in international economic cooperation, we are aware of the new changes which have taken place in the international economic system. We will work for enabling our economy to interact with these changes without fear or complication. We will try to entrench an open dynamic economic cooperation which takes into account safeguarding and equality of the interests of the sides without inflicting harm on any side.

Citizens, tackling outstanding social issues will remain tied to a large extent to the speed in solving the economic problems. For this reason it becomes imperative on our part to mobilize and enlist all the energies of the nation to realize this aim. In all events, the Higher State Council, through its strategy and the work of the government which falls in line with this strategy, will endeavor to consolidate the policy of social justice and embody national solidarity.

For this purpose, safeguarding the purchasing power within reasonable limits and watching over the legitimacy of accumulation of wealth, combating smuggling, speculation, tax evasion and tax fraud are among the actions that must be done in all clarity and transparency. [passage omitted]

It is clear that these measures which have been dictated by a pressing need to eliminate the problems that the national economy suffers from are not aimed at harming the workers or the deprived groups. We will make every efforts to ease the difficulties they are facing within the framework of a policy of social justice and national solidarity. There will be continual consultations between the government, the General Union of Algerian Workers and employers to face up to all the issues submitted in the arena in this country.

Under these circumstances, we are aware of the numerous and difficult problems which are experienced by the Algerian community abroad, particularly in Europe. We would like to stress our total concern about protecting them and defending their rights, and we would like to express our pride in the continuous and strong commitment of that community to the issues of the homeland. [passage omitted]

The educational system has achieved important achievements in the field of Arabization, the main bulk of which is Arabized today, and we should not worry about the remaining parts which will follow suit after the conditions and the necessary means are made available at the suitable time. It remains for us to complete the educational establishments which are liable to develop the national language, and improve its scientific and pedagogic tools. [passage omitted]

Citizens, women and men, the consolidation of Algeria's international standing stems from the cohesiveness of the internal front, its stability, the clarity of its vision, the firmness of its stances, and an awareness of what the current stage requires for the evaluation of national interest, and the understanding of the situation and the international challenges. Thus the Higher State Council has worked on the redeployment of the diplomatic corps in such a way so as to enable the country to prove its presence in the external arena, and confirm the effectiveness of its participation in treating the greatest of political and economic cases, be it on the local, regional, or international levels.

Algeria stresses its commitment to international legitimacy and to the principles and charters of the United Nations. It is following with attention the changes taking place in the world, and is exerting efforts so that these changes will be in favor of peace and stability and contribute to the edification of a democratic world order which takes into account the interests of the international community without any discrimination. Algeria also stresses its loyalty to the principles of nonalignment, this movement which had never been a mere rejection of this or that bloc, but a movement which is aimed at defending the interests and independence of small countries, and is taking part in the establishment of the world order as has been recently confirmed in the 10th summit in Jakarta. This movement acquires at present special importance within the framework of the endeavor to build the new world order which, we hope, will be democratic and will take account of the balance of interests of the various countries.

Algeria, which is anxious about its Arab belonging, continues its role in the joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League and related organizations. From the same premise, we are undertaking our role on the African scene within the framework of the OAU, and out of the requirements of the principles of solidarity and brotherhood between the sons of the continent, we are contributing as far as we can to the help of our neighbors, as we have done regarding the problems faced by the Republic of Mali, and we are ready to exert any effort required from us to deal with similar problems arising in a worrying manner among our neighbors in Niger.

As regards the Arab Maghreb, we will work as we always have without any hesitation or fatigue to edify it as a guarantee for the future of our peoples. I stress Algeria's full commitment to the Maghreban project, and we call upon our brothers to bring this project up to the level of strong cooperation aspired for by our peoples and leading to the aspired unity.

Within this framework, the question of Western Sahara, which is one of the main problems hampering our Maghreban march, we have unreservedly and without hesitation supported the peace plan which has been prepared by the United Nations jointly with the OAU and with the approval of the two sides, the government of Morocco and the Polisario leadership. We regret that such a plan has been hampered and delayed and call on the United Nations to multiply its efforts in order to implement it. We equally call on our brothers not to undertake moves liable to delay that march.

Citizens, the crisis which our country is going through is not an inevitable fate of which we cannot rid ourselves. This crisis has highlighted the negative gaps which had existed within the composition and structure of the state and the fragile base on which the national economy was built. Getting out of this crisis consists, in the first instance, of bridging those gaps by reconstructing the state on clear and rational foundations and principles, namely the principles of modern states that stand on institutions and laws which are not subject to personal whims, which reject impromptu decisions, which lay the foundations of a solid economy based on effort, sound organization, sound exploitation of national human and material resources and on pursuit of the policy of social justice based on rational distribution of wealth and on effort, not almsgiving.

Whatever the gravity of the crisis, Algeria possesses ample human and material capabilities to rid itself of it, under reasonable circumstances. We are determined to move in that direction, relying on the understanding of loyal will and on the mobilization of the nation in the field of work. Whatever the gravity of the crisis, it can only find a solution in our country; we cannot await a miracle from outside. We reassert that we are doing our hardest so that Algeria lives up to the expectations of our heroes, honorable forebears and martyrs, and to the expectations of our sons. We rely on the effort of those sons and on God. Tell them to work, for God, his Prophet, and the believers shall observe. May God's peace be with you.

Ennahda Leader on Joining in National Dialogue

LD1909111692 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Algiers, 19 Sep (APS)—Abdallah Djaballah, president of the Islamic Ennahda movement, has stated in an exclusive interview with APS that the national dialogue called for by the chairman of the Higher State Council, which is to start on 21 September, would constitute a very positive step if it were provided with the guarantees of success.

He said that "the most important guarantees for its success are that participation should be without any background or preconditions, that the dialogue should take place among all the dynamic forces and groups in society, that it should concentrate on clear objectives, and that the principles and concepts which could guarantee its success should be clearly specified."

In this context, he said that the Ennahda movement adheres to "the objectives of 1 November [revolution date] and all the values of Algerian society, as well as the principle of the supremacy of the law and the people's right to choose their rulers through elections."

Djaballah added: "We constitute a political opposition before, during, and after the dialogue and we believe in the principle of the right to differ. We believe that dialogue is the most important instrument for refining differences and making them into positive differences. For this reason, we believe in the offering of advice in all frankness, clarity, and sincerity."

He said that in his view "the dialogue will not be national and will not have any political, legal, or historical value unless the Islamic tendency participates in it. The Islamic tendency commands the majority in the Algerian arena and dialogue with it is a necessity dictated by the higher interest of the country."

Islamic Leader on Need for Talks With Government

PM1809144492 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Sep 92 p 15

[Jean de la Gueriviere report: "Islamic Salvation Front 'Ready for Dialogue' With Algerian Government"]

[Text] Without tempering his criticism of the present Algerian Government and while making serious accusations against some generals who were compromised under the previous regime, a leadership member of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] told us that his movement is prepared for dialogue with the Algerian authorities on several conditions and using "independent figures" as intermediaries.

Rabah Kebir, head of the FIS political and foreign relations department and then official spokesman, who was placed under house arrest a few months ago, "left Algeria" three weeks ago under circumstances which he refuses to recount, just as he does not wish it to be known in which European country we met with him on Wednesday 16 September. According to his statements, he is still speaking as the Front's spokesman, mandated by the consultative council of 25 officials from all the provinces who, despite their clandestine existence, "meet regularly." His entourage also reports the assent of the top FIS leaders currently incarcerated in Blida, especially that of Abassi Madani.

"Despite the repression, the FIS still maintains its national structure, at the level of the leadership and the grass roots," Mr. Kebir said. "The national consultative council makes the important decisions and the executive bureaus still play their role in the communes and provinces." This is the case despite the new arrests which, according to our interlocutor, brought the present number of people detained to "more than 20,000," especially because "many people acquitted by the courts were then kidnapped by the special services."

These special services and "the generals who have controlled Algeria since independence," come in for particular blame from Mr. Kebir. "The Algerian Government is divided into several factions. It is still the generals who have the power, with the fear of losing the wealth they have amassed illegitimately.... They brought in Boudiaf, using him as cover and taking advantage of his historical legitimacy. At the time, we wrote to him to tell him that he was being used by others. He replied on television, ridiculing that letter. What we predicted eventually happened to him. Those who brought him to power are those who killed him."

Still refusing to be more specific in his accusations, the FIS spokesman hinted that the violent attack at Algiers airport is a provocation by the same unidentified members of the military. He drew a distinction between "two types of military action" in Algeria. Those which, like this attack, "aim to discredit the FIS," and those which, instead, "are acts of popular resistance to the dictatorship." Without consenting to say expressly that they are ordered by the FIS, he included in this second category explosions in public buildings and executions like that—in Medea in May—of an irreligious police commissioner who fired into the air in front of the population saying: "I'll kill their god, too."

Four Conditions

But Mr. Kebir denied advocating violence: "Even after the coup d'etat, we did not order the people to demonstrate violently. That is in Algeria's interests.... We are prepared to hold out our hand for civil peace.... We are ready for dialogue, if it is sincere. But there are four conditions: the release of all detainees; an end to arbitrary arrests; the remedying of all the injustices committed with compensation for the victims and the restoration of FIS elected representatives to their posts; and the organization of the second round of the elections. We think that there are independent figures who are working for this reconciliation."

Mr. Kebir then turned to one of those taking part in the interview—Abdelkader Sahroui, 57 years old, living in Germany, who has been introduced to various prominent foreigners, especially prominent French people, and who introduced himself as "joint organizer of the National Liberation Front since its creation in France (during the Algerian war—LE MONDE editor's note), involved in dialogue among all Muslim countries, and also convinced of the need for dialogue with the West." He will very shortly go to Algiers to "verify" that there is also a desire for discussion there.

The Algerian People's "Good Memory"

Asked to give his view on France's attitude in the Algerian crisis and his long support for the authorities, Mr. Kebir did not deviate from the sometimes wearisome caution which he showed during three hours of conversation full of circumlocutions. "We think that some democratic countries have not made the appropriate response to human rights violations in our country.... But there have been encouraging positions in France, in Germany, and elsewhere. The Algerian people will remember all that because they have a very good memory."

Rather than expanding on his relations with Paris if the FIS came to power, Mr. Kebir prefers to talk of the "Mediterranean dimension of cooperation between the Arab Maghreb and Europe." However, he consented to say that "France can play a specific role thanks to its proximity and the large number of immigrants," without mentioning the future of the North African French-speaking world. Asked to confirm what answer he hopes for in the referendum on the Maastricht treaty, he merely expressed his "confidence that the French people will find an answer." But, in his entourage, people seem to be counting more on bilateral dialogue with a few European capitals than on the Community's help in getting the country out of its rut.

Government on Program To Restore Order, Economy

LD1909210992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Sep 92

["Council of Ministers statement"]

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi and in the presence of the members of the Higher State Council [HSC].

The Council of Ministers studied the government program which was submitted by Mr. Bilaid Abdesselam and approved it. The program aims to get the country out of the deep crisis, which has assumed several forms, by fully restoring the prestige of the state, by tackling priority social problems, and also through the continuous development of the national economy.

With regard to restoring the prestige of the state, the program approved a series of new actions aimed at gaining full control of the situation from the standpoint of security and public order, calming public life, and establishing an atmosphere of confidence that is capable of strengthening the credibility of the state and its institutions.

Concerning social problems, the government action program defines the priorities and especially those which concern health, jobs, housing, and education. These

priorities must, however, respond to the urgent and permanent needs of the population.

The program also includes the mechanism that tends to embody a real national solidarity, especially through imposing control on illegally earned wealth and combating speculation in its various forms.

The permanent solution to social problems go hand in hand with developing the national economy. In this framework, the government action program defines the conditions that allow gradual and organized establishment of a market economny, which is based on an important domestic production fully open to the world. To achieve this, the state will encourage public and private organizations which are guided toward production, modernization, and creativity.

On the other hand, the government intends to discuss all the possibilities that provide conditions to attract foreign capital that come under the national development strategy.

While the government is aware of the fact that developing the economy and resuming the development effort are dependent on settling foreign debts, it intends to take suitable measures to ease the burden of the debts and consequently seriously avoiding the continuation of pawning the future of the national economy.

The government council considers that the way out of the crisis calls for providing a suitable atmosphere, and this needs a long time, and this is due to the fact that the current situation is complex and also the nature of the proposed solutions.

The HSC chairman affirmed at the end of the work of the council the need to mobilize all national resources within an organized and harmonious framework with the aim of embodying the actions.

The HSC chairman expressed his conviction that the militant commitment on the part of the cadres and workers will ensure the actual implementation of this program, which constitutes an important element in the process of national development.

Egypt

Musa Cited on Peace Process Mediation

NC1909142492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that Egypt is not mediating between the parties involved in the peace process but is exploiting its contacts with all parties in favor of the negotiating process and the just solution.

Musa added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt fell within the context of constant consultations between Egypt and Syria.

About United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's visit to Egypt this coming Monday, Musa said that the visit is part of the consultations between President Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid in light of the problems following the events concerning Abu Musa Island and in the Arab situation.

Dailies Urge U.S. Intervention 'To Save' Talks

NC1909092792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—In today's editions, AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH appeal to the United States as one of the two cosponsors of the international conference on peace in the Middle East to intervene to save the Washington talks, which may collapse due to the intransigent Israeli position.

AL-AHRAM writes that it seems Israel's maneuvers during the peace talks aim not only to obstruct bilateral talks with the Syrian side but to hamper negotiations with the Palestinian side.

The paper notes Chief Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf's warning that negotiations may collapse if the United States does not intervene swiftly to save them. The paper also notes that al-'Allaf walked out of the meeting last Thursday, because the Israeli side insisted on avoiding talk about withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

AL-AHRAM cautions that the Palestinian-Israeli talks may stumble after the announcement of the detailed Israeli plan for Palestinian autonomy, which limits, instead of expanding, the authority granted to Palestinians in the section about Palestinian autonomy in the Camp David Accords.

Under the headline "Who Will Save the Peace Talks," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that all peace-loving people were shocked by the developments that Israel's intransigence caused in the Syrian-Israeli meeting. The Israeli negotiators applied Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that "Israel will not discuss the issue of land until the Syrians point out their peace approach."

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH remarks that this statement is refutable, because the document the Syrians presented to the Israeli side was clear and because the Syrian opening speech at the Madrid conference explicitly emphasized the land-for-peace formula and the commitment to international resolutions.

The paper describes as lawful the Syrian demand that the Israeli side declare a commitment to the principle of full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territories in the Golan Heights, saying that it reflects a real understanding of the meaning of the just and comprehensive peace approved by the international community and the two cosponsors.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the determining of the transitional status of the occupied territories are the two basic issues in the peace talks.

The paper concludes that these two issues cannot be resolved by diplomatic utterances or nice words but by exchanging proposals and by proper intervention by the two cosponsors, who should reconcile views whenever necessary.

Iranian 'Aggression' Against Gulf States Viewed

NC1809135292 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Sep 92 p 1

[Article by Jalal Duwaydar: "Dropping The Mask"]

[Text] The Iranian-Persian fox has started to act openly against the Gulf states and their historic rights in its endeavor to achieve its hostile ambitions and aspirations. Following a period of deception and prevarication, it has removed the "mask," thus confirming the objectives it had kept hidden throughout the past few months following the war of ambition with its rival, the Gulf wolf Saddam Husayn, who committed suicide in his clash with international legitimacy.

It was not surprising to see the Iranian regime protest the resolutions of the Damascus Declaration meeting, which rejected the aggression against United Arab Emirates [UAE]-owned Abu Musa Island. The leader of the Shiite regime of the "mullahs," the architect of the theory of exporting terrorist-based revolutions, declared in Pakistan that this island is Iranian despite it belonging, historically, to the Emirate of al-Shariqah and lying within Arab territorial and water boundaries according to international laws.

This aggression, in which the Iranian regime is persisting, confirms a clear and glaring fact: the honeymoon with the Arab Gulf countries is over. Expelling UAE citizens and a ban on their returning to their lands and homes on Abu Musa show the deviousness of the Iranian regime's intentions. Throughout the past few months and after Saddam Husayn doomed himself and his existence, this Iranian regime continued to declare that it was seeking the friendship of the Gulf states and the establishment of good-neighborly relations. The regime used these honeyed words merely to dupe these countries so that it can get its prey piecemeal. It calculated how to avoid all the mistakes of Saddam Husayn, who regrettably belongs to the Arab nation. I call on friendly China to show consideration for pan-Arab security by not going too far in its military cooperation with Iran, especially following reports that it is giving Iran a 300-megawatt nuclear reactor.

None of the gentlemen who opened their doors and hearts to the Iranian fox appear to have realized the extent of the danger. The Iranian ambitions are not limited to Abu Musa. Insolently, they have started to claim a right they do not have to the gas piped from Qatari territory on which the Qatari Government has spent billions of dollars. We should also not forget the Iranian regime's theft of the Arab islands of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra.

This is the Iranian regime that marshalled all its efforts to cast doubt on the Damascus Declaration, because it is an obstacle to its dreams and ambitions. It claimed to have a role in Gulf security and is now revealing the nature of this role by reviving dreams of controlling and seizing Arab territories and resources.

We have repeatedly warned in several articles of Iran's ambitions and plots. It is now clear that we have been right and that the Arab countries' unity and solidarity and the doing away with the problem of lack of trust are the only effective ways to confront this danger. Arab strength and determination can confront the ambitious. No one can or ought to do this better than those who own the land and resources and their brothers who are bound to them by the responsibility of defending Arab existence.

Interior Minister on 'Extremist Terrorist' Groups

NC1909135292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa asserted that his ministry is taking every measure to safeguard tourism and conferences currently being held in Cairo, noting that no malicious person can encroach on Egypt's security.

Leaving Cairo for Paris today, he said that a statement received by news agencies in Cairo, signed by the self-styled Islamic Union Organization and threatening foreign tourists in Egypt, could not have been issued by Egyptian or Muslim personalities who care for their country's interest.

Commenting about extremist terrorist groups, he said that no one charged with a terrorist act is currently a fugitive. He added that all of them have been arrested and that over 45 people have repented and declared their separation from these groups.

[In a short report about repentance by terrorists, Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic on 15 September on page one adds the following: "Some 142 members of extremist groups in Qina announced that they broke off with their groups. They declared their repentance to the security affiliates and were released at once, Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mahmud 'Antar told AL-AKHBAR.

["He added that 10 extremists who were involved in attacks against tourists in Luxor and Isna have been arrested and that 100 weapons were found on outlaws in Qina's villages and centers."]

Musa noted that there is security cooperation between Egypt and all Arab countries.

He said that agreement has been reached with the Kuwaiti interior minister, who is currently visiting Cairo to train Kuwaiti officers in Egypt on the latest security techniques and in combating terrorism. He added that coordination took place with the Kuwaiti side on the Arab interior ministers conference due to be held in Tunis in December.

Interior Minister Musa will undergo medical tests during his visit to France.

Eleven Parties To Contest 3 Nov Elections

NC1809140992 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Majid Muhammad]

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak issued a presidential decree setting the date for local Popular Council elections throughout the Republic on 3 November. [passage omitted]

Local Administration Minister Dr. Mahmud Sharif said that 11 parties will contest the elections under the party lists' system. They are: The National Democratic Party; the Liberal Party; the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party; the Socialist Labor Party; the New Wafd Party; the Ummah Party; the New [as published] Misr al-Fatah Party; the Egyptian Greens Party; the Democratic Unionist Party; the Egyptian Democratic People's Party; and the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

[The following report appears on page one of the same issue of the paper: "In its latest meeting, the Higher Committee of al-Wafd Party, chaired by party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, decided to participate in the local council elections at every level. The party branches in the governorates have started to receive applications from members wishing to run in the local elections. The final lists of candidates are expected to be submitted to the party's General Secretariat by 17 September at the latest. Once approved, the lists will be submitted to the party leader to be endorsed."]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives U.S. Military Official

JN1909114892 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, this morning received Admiral David Jeremiah, deputy chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways of bolstering them. Talks also dealt with security developments in the region and international issues of mutual interest.

His highness hailed the existing good bilateral relations and hoped that these relations will develop in the interest of all parties. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Heir Apparent Interviewed on Gulf Affairs

NC2009204892 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 5 Sep 92 pp 1, 9

[Report on interview with Qatari Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani by chief editor Talal Salman in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Qatari heir inquired at length about Lebanon, revealing his love and adulation for this country and taking an interest in every detail of its life. The future ruler of Qatar, like many Qataris, has a rosy image of Lebanon. He asked about security, the elections, Beirut and its war-ravaged center, the mountain and its resorts, the people in general, the government and the opposition, and the difficulties created by the deteriorating economic crisis.

Since I had very few reassuring things to say, I let the discussion drift into reminiscences of an idyllic past.

Then it was time to discuss urgent Arab concerns, primarily the designs and threats facing Iraq.

Shaykh Hamad said, without mincing words: They [not further identified] are using Saddam's sins as a pretext. Meanwhile, it is the Iraqi people and the entire Arab nation that is being punished. This foreign logic that divides a people into sects and different strands is unacceptable. The Iraqis in the south are no less Arab than their brothers throughout Iraq. Their being branded as "Shiites" and the imposition of foreign protection on their land under the pretext of defending them is an affront to them, to Iraq, and to the entire Arab nation.

Shaykh Hamad added, with emotion: They are punishing the Iraqis, especially the inhabitants of the south, for a second—even a third—time. We all know that Saddam Husayn is the one who started the war against Iran, a war that was costly in particular for the southern Iraqis. The southern Iraqis have suffered greatly once again as a result of Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. Now they have to undergo a third punishment and, what is worse, one that is being carried out at the expense of their national and Arab identity and at the expense of their country's unity. All this [is being done] under the smokescreen of protecting them.

It was natural that we broach the Kuwait position. The Qatari heir apparent expressed his regret that "the brothers in Kuwait are still acting under the influence of the anger and bitterness caused by Saddam's invasion of their country. Foresight requires them to remember that Saddam Husayn is a man, a mortal individual, whereas Iraq is immortal and so is Kuwait. Geography does not change and is immutable, and so is history and the common bonds of life and interests. We would have preferred that they postpone the issue of drawing the borders with Iraq. It is normal that Iraq would see the drawing of borders, under the current circumstances, as capitulation and reject it. Even the Iraqi opposition was embarrassed and some of its groups announced their rejection of borders that are drawn up under occupation or foreign pressure."

We spoke about Arab wounds. The Qatari heir apparent said: We still are shaken by the [Gulf crisis] earthquake. Our reactions are largely nervous and emotional, and sometimes self-destructive. It is clear that, in many aspects, we are still in shock from the earthquake.

Shaykh Hamad added: Countries, particularly major ones, are not charity organizations. They act according to their own interests. Let us make no mistake about this. The West sent its armies here and got us into a war because of its own—not the Kuwaiti or Arab—interests. This is true despite our absolute rejection of the foolish invasion on which Saddam embarked.

The Qatari heir apparent added: We are still under the effect of the shock, which eliminated our solidarity and its establishments, especially the Arab League. Even the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] still suffers from the aftermath of the shock. Regrettably, some GCC countries are not showing the needed concern. If you consider our problem with Bahrain, you will find that some Gulf positions are instigative. We had hoped that all brothers, especially our big brother, would exercise good offices to end the problem cordially.

I asked: What is the latest on this issue?

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah replied: The case is now before the International Court of Justice. We thought referring the matter to the court not only would help us solve the problem peacefully—especially since our right to our territory is clear—but also would spare everyone, including our brothers in Bahrain, any embarrassment. The issue will be decided by the highest judicial

authority in the world. The coming generations will not feel that rights have been relinquished, and souls will be free of any grudges.

The Qatari heir apparent laughed as he went on: Perhaps you do not know that we are the closest to our brothers in Bahrain. We backed the current ruling family there. (Laughing) It is true that we were more like "paid fighters," as was the case with the tribes during the time of invasions, but we supported the ruling family anyway. You can hardly find a Qatari without blood or marriage ties to the Bahrainis. Our traditions, habits, and even dialects are almost the same.

What, then, is the solution? I asked.

This worrying question floated through the air of the spacious office with its elegant and comfortable light-blue furniture. He had nothing to say but to hope: Arab solidarity must be restored, and without acquitting Saddam or lifting the siege on him, the rift must be healed. Our politics should not continue to be based on gloating and spitefulness, and we should not cite disturbances in other Arab countries as proof that our internal situations are sound. It is an even greater mistake for some of us to help expand and magnify those disturbances.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah said: Is it conceivable, for instance, that some Arabs, including some Gulf states, should adopt such inflexible positions toward Sudan? Irrespective of our views on the policy of the Sudanese regime, no one could deny that for the first time in 20 years, a central government in Sudan has succeeded in unifying the country and ending the secessionist movement in the south. Where are the pan-Arab sentiments? Where is the feeling of a united destiny?

The smile departed the black face, and silence prevailed once more. Shaykh Hamad then said in a sorrowful tone: We are a nation without leadership. Since Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir left us, we have lost the term of reference and the command that was able to close ranks and unify the nation. If 'Abd-al-Nasir were alive today, the situation would be different; most of the tragedies and wars among the Arabs would not have happened. The nation must have leadership, an authority to which to refer. It should not accept views, allegations, and attempts to occupy leading positions without being ready to shoulder its pan-Arab obligations and burdens. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Orders Aid for Pakistani Flood Victims

LD1809200792 Riyadh SPA in English 1221 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 18, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has instructed the minister of finance and national economy to make arrangements for dispatch of food, tents and blankets for brothers who were affected by the floods in various districts of Pakistan.

He also instructed the minister of health to dispatch medicines and medical equipments for the same purpose. The noble initiative of the kingdom comes in the framework of his constant concern on the Moslims' affairs.

The relief materials will be airlifted by the planes of the Saudi Royal Airforce as soon as possible.

Bin-Jubayr Appointed Consultative Council Chairman

LD1609222492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Sep (SPA)—A Royal Decree has been issued appointing Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Bin-Jubayr as chairman of the Consultative Council [Majlis al-Shura] with the rank of minister. Following is the text of the Royal Decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Number: A/124; date: 19/3/1413 AH (17 September 1992). With God Almighty's help, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after taking cognizance of Article 58 of the the Basic System of Government, issued in accordance with Royal Decree number A/90 dated 27/8/1412 AH; and, after taking cognizance of Article One of the statute of ministers, deputy ministers and first class rank civil servants, issued in accordance with Royal Decree number M/10, dated 18/3/1391 AH; and, after taking cognizance of Article 10 of the statute of the Consultative Council, issued in accordance with Royal Decree number A/91, dated 27/8/1412 AH: We decree the following:

First, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Bin-Jubayr will be appointed chairman of the Consultative Council with the rank of minister.

Second, this decree will be conveyed to the competent authorities for endorsement and implementation.

United Arab Emirates

Official Claims Sovereignty Over Abu Musa

LD2009101292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0704 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Sep (KUNA)—In an interview here today, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], asserted his country's claim to full sovereignty over Abu Musa Island, which is under Iranian occupation.

In his interview with KUNA, Shaykh Hamdan denounced Iran's endeavor to give the impression that it desires to resolve the dispute through direct negotiations

with the al-Shariqah emirate. He stated that Iran's real aim behind all this is to isolate the emirate from the union.

He added: "Iran is trying to isolate the UAE from the political reality in the Gulf by making positive statements in relation to the Gulf countries."

Concerning Iran's claims that its actions in Abu Musa are legal under the agreement of 1971, he asserted that such claims "are a false interpretation of the clauses of the agreement with al- Shariqah." He went on to say: "Iran is trying to take exclusive charge of security in the island. This matter has no legal or political basis; it is only an expression of Iran's political determination to control the island." "Iran's current actions in Abu Musa show its intention to change the island's demographic composition and legal status," he added.

Shaykh Hamdan denied reports of his country's readiness to offer facilities to Western powers on the island. He stated that they are merely Iranian fabrications to enable Iran to claim sovereignty over the island.

Ministry Denies Remarks

JN2009151792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Sep (WAKH)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has dismissed remarks concerning Abu Musa Island, purportedly made by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs. The remarks were carried by several news media organs, citing the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA'.

In a statement carried by the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, the source asserted that the remarks ascribed to the minister have absolutely no basis in truth. As a matter of fact, Shaykh Hamdan neither made such a statement nor gave an interview to that paper, added the UAE Foreign Ministry statement.

Leaders Await Syrian Mediation on Abu Musa

NC2009125292 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By Mohamed Hasni]

[Text] Manama, Sept 20 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE), backed by Arab support, is counting on diplomacy to resolve its dispute with Iran over Abu Musa island, despite the apparent failure of a Syrian mediation bid.

"We are waiting for the outcome of the diplomatic moves," a source close to the UAE leadership told AFP, stressing his country had placed "high hopes" in Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Iran.

But an influential Iranian newspaper said Sunday that Tehran rejected the Syrian mediation because Damascus had sided with the UAE.

"Iran would have preferred direct negotiations first with the Sharjah sheikhdom and then with the UAE," it said, a day after al-Shar' wound up a 24-hour visit during which he met President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"If they prefer to have the matter settled through a mediator, Tehran will have no objections provided the mediator is an impartial party, and not a country like Syria which has already taken sides in the affair," it said.

The English-language daily, which is close to Iran's foreign ministry, referred to Syria's backing for Gulf Arab states in their show of support for UAE's stand on Abu Musa at a conference in Qatar earlier in September.

With the tone gradually mounting since the dispute surfaced last month, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs charged Sunday that Iran was playing to set the other Gulf Arab states against the Emirates.

"By making positive statements on its policy in the Gulf, Iran is trying to isolate the Emirates," Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayid al-Sultan said in a statement published by the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA'.

Shaykh Hamdan, son of President Zayid bin Sultan al-Nuhayyan, stressed his country's claim to "full sovereignty" over Abu Musa, which lies close to the Strait of Hormuz, the only outlet from the Gulf.

After meeting al-Shar', Hashemi-Rafsanjani said his country sought to maintain good relations with its Arab neighbours across the Gulf, but stressed its position on the strategic island was "unalterable."

The Emirates have accused Iran of de facto annexation of Abu Musa in violation of a 1971 British-sponsored accord under which administration of the island has been shared by Tehran and the UAE emirate of Sharjah.

The accord did not resolve the issue of sovereignty.

Iran insists on full sovereignty over Abu Musa and two other islands, Big Tunb and Little Tunb, which are also claimed by the UAE as part of the emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah.

Undeterred by the initial setback of the al-Shar' mission, the UAE leader plans to visit Egypt on Monday to discuss Abu Musa with Egypt's President Husni Mubarak and then travel on to Syria.

The UAE source said the official media in his country had toned down their earlier charges of Iranian "expansionism" to give diplomacy a better chance.

An Iranian diplomat in Abu Dhabi lodged an official protest at the foreign ministry to complain at what Iran has termed the "U.S.-inspired propaganda war" over Abu Musa, according to an Arab diplomat in the region.

On the UAE side, a senior administration official, Sayyif Sayyif, has accused Tehran of refusing to enter a dialogue on the islands' dispute.

In the event of a diplomatic deadlock, Abu Dhabi has kept open the option of taking the dispute to the United Nations, with the backing of the Arab League, the UAE source said.

Informed sources in Abu Dhabi said the UAE feared Iran could follow up with claims over other small islands in the southern Gulf, after having tightened its hold on Abu Musa.

Iran has said it stepped up security after intercepting several gunmen aboard boats off the island.

Yemen

Bombs Explode Near PGC Headquarters in Sanaa

NC1909183092 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 19 (AFP)—Three bombs rocked the Yemeni capital at the end of the week, one near the president's party headquarters, but caused only minor damage, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

A ministry statement said one of the bombs exploded late Thursday near the headquarters of the Popular General Congress (PGC), President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's party.

Two other bombs—one near the home of Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, the president's brother and head of national security, the other near the home of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', deputy minister of information and the president's son-in-law—exploded late Friday within minutes of each other, it said.

In its statement, the ministry described the bombings as "actions aimed against national unity" and said police were trying to identify the bombers.

A wave of politically-motivated attacks has swept through Yemen since the north and south united in May 1991.

The Yemen Socialist Party, the former ruling party in the south and now sharing power with the PGC, has been the main target of the attacks, which have claimed the lives of eight of its top officials.

Al-Attas Denies Apologizing to Iran for Remarks

PM1809111192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 92 p 4

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Al-'Attas Denies Apologizing to Rafsanjani"]

[Text] Aden—Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has denied that he apologized to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for using the term "Arabian Gulf" in his address to the Nonaligned summit, to which a member of the Iranian delegation objected at the end of the session.

Al-'Attas pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "after I delivered my speech a number of speeches were delivered by the heads of delegations, then I left the hall. I was told later that a member of the Iranian delegation had voiced reservations about that term before the session ended." He emphasized that what was mentioned in the speech reflected Yemen's position, and any delegation is entitled to object or voice reservations.

He said that his meeting with the Iranian president "was arranged before the speech and was not affected by it, nor did it reflect any coolness." He added: "We discussed a number of issues within the framework of cordial relations between the two countries, and that term was not broached."

The Yemeni prime minister affirmed that "Yemen will continue to defend the Arab nation's pride, dignity, and sovereignty, and these slanders will not change its fixed stances."

Saddam Honors Arab Women for Supporting Country

JN2009090592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: It will not be possible for us to enjoy economic and social freedom before we are politically free. His excellency added that the 30-state aggression against Iraq had targeted the political will, not only of the leadership, but also of the human being in Iraq. The president stressed that the descriptions attached to the leading positions in our country derive their value from conduct and actions. However, the ordinary citizen becomes a leader when he innovates, debates, rejects, and when he puts things right.

President Saddam Husayn's remarks were made when he decorated a number of Arab women from Mauritania, Palestine, Algeria, and Yemen with high orders of merit in recognition of their tireless and ceaseless efforts to extend support for the people in Iraq and for their participation in the voyage of the Ibn-Khaldun ship whereby virtuous Arab women defied the iniquitous embargo imposed by imperialists and Zionists on their people in Iraq. The president said: When the enemies forgot Almighty God, they thought that their aggression would wipe out the Iraqi people, break their political will, and finish off their symbols. In the meantime, they thought that the survivors would surrender. But this has failed to materialize, since, for one thing, there is the will of God, and secondly, all Iraqi men and women are singularly creative and characteristically disciplined and committed.

His excellency added that with the experience it has been through, Iraq promises God, the Arab nation, and humanity that it will not only hold its ground, but will also show creativity. He said that Iraq will also rise to the status willed by God and the well-intentioned people throughout the world.

His excellency said: In one of the stages of our militant life in the past, we read, heard, and noted that publication houses and societies were formed in the Arab homeland and in the Third World countries dealing with women's rights and the importance of granting women the appropriate human role. These societies and publication houses called for guaranteeing women political and social rights. We sympathized with these societies, federations, and enlightenment centers. All these bodies were useful. However, throughout the continuous struggle in the past historical stage, we found that woman will be liberated when her homeland is liberated; when her people, of which she is part, are liberated; and when man is liberated in his mind and conscience. And man will be liberated in his mind and conscience when he is politically free.

The president emphasized that any deficiency in any aspect of life will partly or completely reflect on the entire life. The target of the 30-state aggression against Iraq was the political will—not only the political will of a group of persons called the leadership or leaderships, but the political will of the new human being in Iraq. Inspired by these meanings, we deem the Iraqis' position and their saying no to the parallel lines, which the imperialists seek to consecrate, as significant as their absolute rejection of all the conspiracies hatched before the start of the military aggression on Iraq on the night of 16-17 January 1991. This no is even more capable of entrenching and epitomizing the Iraqis' faith in their rejection as expressed prior to the 16-17 January 1991 aggression. That rejection was a well-known fact.

His excellency said the first no to aggression was said before the start of the military aggression, but the present no is said against the comprehensive air, sea, and ground siege, which has been going on for more than two years. The present no, compared with the no said before the military aggression, better shows that the new Iraqi human being deserves the place he has occupied. The spirit observed by the Arab sister whether from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, or Palestine that is dear to every honorable Arab—a spirit evident in what the steadfast peasants told her—emphasizes that the Iraqis decided this [rejection] through a political will, and that they were aware of their role, their new pioneering role in life.

The president stressed that the leadership in our country is no longer traditionally confined to the head of state, the Revolution Command Council, and so forth. In Iraq, such titles get their meanings from role and behavior; the citizen is also a leader.

His excellency added: A war was waged against 18 million by all these forces and in various means, of which you are aware. This war took the form of embargo and bombardment with all types of bombs. The enemies used all the tools they had prepared for collision with the Warsaw Pact. According to traditional calculations, the results of what is taking place cannot be what we are dealing with and what we see now.

The president pointed out that the enemies have forgotten God Almighty. When they aggressed they forgot God and calculated things according to traditional calculations. They, for example, have 3,000 fighter planes and a similar number of helicopters as well as a large number of tanks and naval vessels. When they forgot God Almighty, they thought that such weapons will cancel the existence of the Iraqi people or these people's political will, and will end the existence of their symbols while the rest of the people will surrender. This, however, did not happen first because the will of God exists and second because every Iraqi man and woman was a leader in creativity and a leader in adopting the stand he or she believed was right and a leader in commitment and discipline.

His excellency the president added: When a citizen chooses to show commitment, he becomes a leader; when he demonstrates discipline, he becomes a leader; and when he displays creativity, he becomes a leader.

The same holds true when he debates, rejects, and puts things right. When he does that, he becomes a leader full of vitality, patriotism, sincerity, and determination, even though he might have some remarks about, for example, our agricultural policy, or any other policy. However, when this peasant learns that the homeland is in danger, he knows that he must decide, using the mind of a leader, and also that he must not dwell on details, forgetting the major issue, which could decide his destiny for 10 years or less [as received], or perhaps even for hundreds of years.

Our reliance on your glorious Iraqi sisters, after seeking the help of God, is great, even though we appreciate man's role. We are here speaking of the society's strata, each according to its field of activity. Hence, our reliance on Iraqi men and women is great. Any sister from Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, or any other Arab country who believes that she will find something to inspire her when she comes to Iraq is not mistaken. This is because since we launched our experience in Iraq, or since we shouldered our responsibilities as Iraqis—as citizens in Iraq—we have never pursued parochial policies. On the contrary, our principal premise was that we are part of the Arab nation. Iraq happens to be part of this nation.

His excellency the president went on to say: If the Iraqi experience produces negative phenomena, it will negatively influence the Arab state of affairs. Such a negative influence will extend to affect the state of affairs in Egypt, Algeria, and Libya. The same holds true when any experience produces negative phenomena in any Arab state.

But, if the experience produces positive phenomena, it will positively affect the Arab state of affairs as a whole, regardless of whether these positive phenomena emanated in Iraq, Sudan, Mauritania, or any other part of the same and one Arab homeland. This is a fact showing the same and one nation in action and interaction.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the Iraqis, in their steadfastness, have not sought inspiration only from the bright chapters in the history of Iraq, but also from the early stages of Islam, including all their links, which have illuminated the road for us up to now. Similarly, the Iraqis sought inspiration from the positions of their brothers and sisters in Port Said, in the Suez Canal cities, and in the far reaches of Egypt when our people there resisted the tripartite aggression. Likewise, our people sought inspiration from the position of the heroic Algerian people, who made immense sacrifices totaling 1 million martyrs. Also, the Iraqis, in their steadfastness, have recalled the battles waged by our people in Palestine, calling to mind the heroic battles led by Saladin, all Arab glories, and all honorable Arab positions against colonial rule, be they in the Arab Maghreb or Arab East.

His excellency the president added: It is only natural for us to seek inspiration from all positions. The demonstrations staged by the Algerian people, the demonstrations staged by the Arab people in Jordan, the demonstrations staged by the Arab people in Palestine, the demonstrations staged in Tunisia, the demonstrations staged in Morocco, as well as the positions demonstrated and the demonstrations staged in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, and elsewhere in Arab lands were all army corps are fighting on the side of the Iraqi army corps. We never thought of them except as army corps nurturing us with resourcefulness to enhance our steadfastness so that we could fulfill the wishes and epitomize the positions of Arabs everywhere.

The president stressed that every honest Arab stand on such a level places a major moral commitment on our shoulders in addition to our major principled commitment. When we are told: You represent the Arab will, this will be a great honor to all Iraqis from al-Basrah to Ninawa.

His excellency added: We understand the meaning of the Arab woman's arrival in her Baghdad at this particular time. We understand that this is a decision and stand as it is the stand of the peasant with whom you discussed his readiness to carry arms and cultivate his land. This is not simply traditional work; he does not work on his land just to feed his children, but this is a stand and decision. He cultivates the land to resist the blockade and to maintain a free, strong, steadfast, and effective will.

The president stressed that all the sons of the Arab nation, wherever they are, can be on the level of Iraq's stand, or even higher, with the right starting point and when the right course of action is followed. The most important thing is that people—through their coherence—should only fear God when they deviate from the right path. When people do not deviate from the right path, their worship of God will be continuous. When man finds that he is following the right path, there will be no fear in his heart.

His excellency said: In life, people become stronger with experiences, adjust themselves to the dangers facing them and can overcome these dangers and remain steadfast. In other words, people's will and faith become stronger. They become technically more prepared to face dangers than at the start of confronting these dangers.

This takes place in all aspects of life, including combat. Man finds himself in a stronger position when fighting stops for days, weeks, months, or years. He becomes more prepared to confront the dangers of fighting, and technically, becomes more prepared—as they say in the military—to absorb the shock and deal with it with better performance. The glorious Iraqi woman was outside the direct military effects in al-Qadisiyah [the Iraq-Iran war]. Man, however, experienced the battle, as they say in the military. In other words, he dealt with battles, absorbed their effects, adjusted himself to their dangers, and passed through all their various stages.

His excellency added: That was the condition of men throughout the eight years [of the Iraq-Iran war]. Men experienced the battles, that is, they waged battles and faced heavy fire. Women, however, did not see this; they dealt with the battles through offering as sacrifices their husbands or sons. Women saw the battles at the end and the beginning of the war in the city of all cities, al-Basrah. When the Mother of Battles began, Iraq's women and children were the target of its heavy fire as the fighters on the frontlines everywhere were also the target of the enemies' heavy fire. Despite this, women were patient and armed themselves with faith in God and in the great principles carried by the banner of Allahu Akbar [God is great] and the epic-like Mother of Battles. Thus, Iraq's women continued to represent what they are representing now.

Therefore, when you speak about Iraq, you are required to place the stand of your sister, the glorious Iraqi woman, within the framework of these facts. The Iraqi woman, like the Iraqi child, was suddenly the target of heavy fire as was the fighter who was under heavy fire in his trench. What would the situation be like had women experienced the eight years of fighting?

His excellency said: We believe that God Almighty has, through all His messages to prophets and messengers, sought to liberate the whole society and not half of it. According to our role in life, we believe that if only half of the society works, thinks, fights, faces difficulties, produces, and learns, then all the society's life activities will be unbalanced and disorganized and our society itself will be unbalanced and restless.

The president said balanced results require a balanced society and the woman should be liberated. According to this concept, the woman cannot be liberated by social societies only. Such societies help in the emancipation process, but the basic liberator is the political will. Likewise, what liberates man is the political will. We in the third world countries are in need of the political will that liberates our life whether in the economic, social, or political spheres. Thus, we, men and women, will be in a better position.

Addressing the audience, the president said: Reassure the men and women of the nation about your experience in Iraq. Your experience in Iraq constitutes a pledge to God, the Arabs, and humanity. This experience will not only hold out strongly, but also excel through steadfastness and occupy the place willed by God Almighty and desired by the good ones everywhere, God willing.

Convey my greetings to all the Arabs and through them to all those who deserve to be greeted in the entire world.

Other women from Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Mauritania, Yemen, Libya, Syria, and Jordan were also honored.

The following have been awarded high orders of merit on their attendance of the Arab women's popular rally organized by the General Federation of Iraqi Women:

1. Fatimah Bin-Halifah, Mauritania;
2. Fawziyah al-Nu'man, Yemen;
3. Samirah Khadr Mahmud 'Abd-al-Jawad, Palestine;
4. Sulaymani Sa'idah, Algeria;
5. Ghina' Haydar 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Miqdad, Yemen;
6. Aminah Haydar 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Miqdad, Yemen;
7. Jamilah Muhsin Salih 'Ali, Yemen;
8. Fatimah 'Ali Fathallah al-'Ushbi, Yemen;
9. Fatimah Muhammad 'Ali al-Haj, Yemen.

The honoring ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, and Manal Yunus al-Alusi, head of the General Federation of Iraqi Women.

Opposition Groups Plan Meeting in Irbil 20-25 Sep

LD1909110292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 19 Sep (KUNA)—Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi, the general coordinator of the opposition Iraqi National Congress, has, in an interview published here today, stated that the various Iraqi opposition groups are preparing to hold a plenary meeting in Irbil, northern Iraq, during the period 20-25 September.

In an interview with AL-KHALIJ, the United Arab Emirates paper, Dr. al-Shalabi pointed out that the purpose of the meeting is to find a conciliatory formula between the groups which attended the Vienna conference and those who did not attend. An effort will also be made to expand the base of the Iraqi National Congress, which was established following the Vienna conference, while maintaining the general framework of the congress and its general organization. Dr. al-Shalabi, who recently visited a number of world capitals, said that this meeting is taking place at the invitation of Kurdish leader Mas'ud al-Barzani, as part of the preparation for the next phase.

Conference Postponed for 'Few Days'

JN2009190392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources of the Iraqi Shiite opposition residing in Iran said that the Iraqi opposition's Irbil conference, scheduled for today, has been postponed because some of the parties concerned have not arrived. Other sources attribute the postponement to external factors aimed at sabotaging or even canceling the conference. Informed sources have linked these factors to emotional and irresponsible statements against Iraq made by Kurdish opposition leader Jalal Talabani, as well as other statements by the official in charge of external relations in Talabani's party, in which he spoke about federalism in Iraq. This could lead to the failure of the Irbil meeting.

Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum, one of the Vienna conference figures, told our radio that the Irbil conference has been postponed for only a few days and that the talk about federation, or the moves to court the hostility of

regional capitals during this sensitive phase in the issue of Iraq, will not serve anybody at all.

Evacuation of Hospitals Seen as Prelude to Battle

NC1909161192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] According to an urgent report from our sources, the defeated regime has carried out an extensive evacuation of all hospitals in Baghdad, which included even patients who need special and continued medical care. Apparently this measure is in preparation for military operations by the regime in which numerous people will be wounded. The regime often has carried out similar measures before launching military operations.

Saddam Said To Move Military Equipment to Tikrit

NC2009155092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] While the gap between the regime and our Iraqi people is widening and the regime's isolation is increasing at the local, regional, and international levels, our sources reported that Iraq's tyrant recently has begun moving various types of military equipment and weapons to Tikrit.

The sources said that this action is prompted by Saddam's fears and the precautions he is taking to confront the unknown fate waiting for him and threatening his crumbling regime.

Radio Says Army Commanders Arrested in South

NC1909160792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] According to press sources, Saddam's defeated regime has burned villages and displaced new groups of citizens in the marshlands. The sources added that the regime has stepped up the ferocity of its repressive campaigns, which also have included arresting several field army commanders in the south on the pretext that they were not sufficiently prompt in carrying out their orders.

It should be noted that our mujahidin's heroic resistance and their ability to inflict severe losses on Saddam's forces causes the regime to resort to criminal, terrorist methods.

Opposition Attacks Army Headquarters in al-Basrah

LD2009154192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Iraqi opposition forces attacked the headquarters of the Iraqi Fourth Army division and a concentration point of the regime's troops in al-Basrah Province. In the course of this attack, launched in retaliation for the Iraqi artillery shelling last week, a number of the government troops were killed and several of them were taken captive.

The commander of the U.S. fighter planes in the region, General Michael Nelson, referring to the point that the Iraqi Army is busy building a road in the southern marshland area of Iraq, said that Iraqi forces are trying to hide their road-building activities from the eyes of the fighter pilots.

Mujahidin Seize al-Qurnah, Punish 'Mercenaries'

NC2009154192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Reporting the bold attack by our mujahidin fighters on the authority's dens in al-Qurnah, our sources said that this successful attack has caused extensive material damage and many casualties. After controlling the city for 90 minutes, the mujahidin meted out a fair sentence against a number of the regime's mercenaries and agents, but other mercenaries were granted amnesty.

Kurdish Parties Agree To Consolidate Armies

NC2109055192 Paris AFP in English 0134 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By Clare Pointon]

[Text] Salahadin, Iraq, Sept 21 (AFP)—Two key Iraqi Kurdish political parties have agreed to merge their peshmerga fighters as a first step toward forming a Kurdish army, the head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) has said.

Mas'ud Barzani told AFP he reached an accord with the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, to place fighters from both parties under the control of a Kurdish ministry of defence.

Kamal Mufti, a general in charge of the Kurdish defence ministry, said 50,000 peshmergas were needed immediately to control the line between Kurdish territory in northern Iraq and government-controlled areas.

These would be supplemented by another 50,000 soldiers to be formed in the Kurdish-controlled region from recruited or conscripted men.

"The measure is very important because otherwise the peshmerga will be in the hands of different militia groups and the (Kurdish) government will not be in control," Mufti said.

"Without this, we cannot defend Kurdistan and we cannot control the people carrying guns on the streets," he added..

After the failed Kurdish uprising last year, the two main parties ordered the peshmerga fighters to set up a 2,300-strong Kurdish police force to patrol their region.

The presence of this force at checkpoints and on the streets has been seen as a symbol of the transformation of Kurdish society, which held its first independent election in May and formed a government.

The Kurdish government has not been recognised by any country and is considered illegal by Baghdad.

Although smaller parties have said they were willing to attend talks to contribute their own peshmerga fighters to a Kurdish army, some criticism has emerged over the procedure.

The newly-formed United Party of Kurdistan (UPK) is critical of the way in which it says some decisions are taken by the two main parties alone.

Barzani has proposed that the DPK and the PUK each provide 40 percent of the army force while smaller parties make up the rest.

But Sami Abdel Rahman, a UPK leader, has argued that merit rather than party allegiances should determine appointment in public services.

"Otherwise there is a danger that we will act in the same way as the Iraqi (ruling) Ba'th Party. This would kill the efficiency of the (Kurdish) government," he said.

For members of the newly-installed Kurdish administration, the move is a sign that the two main parties, who until recently retained much of the power inside Iraqi Kurdistan, intended to yield power.

"All peshmergas must be with the new force and some others will be merged into the police. All peshmergas will be controlled by the government and there will be no other militias," Barzani told AFP.

He said the struggle had historically been for the people and not for any one political party, adding "now the time is approaching for this."

Barzani said the fighters would receive special training to help them adapt to their new role, adding that the transition to a modern democratic government called for large amounts of money and would not be easy.

"We are doing our best and gradually we are moving towards democracy and to implementing the rule of law."

"Our main aim is to achieve this. We still have many problems but we have decided to go forward to achieve our goals."

Reaction to Killing of Kurdish Leaders Reported

Kurds Assassinated in Berlin

NC1809181792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Last night, the hand of treachery and crime of the enemies of our Kurdish people and their liberation movement assassinated in Berlin a group of the strugglers of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Iran. They included party Secretary Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Political Bureau issued a statement on this painful occasion, declaring a state of mourning for three days over the radio and television stations of the Kurdish people.

The radio of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Iran this morning announced the martyrdom of the party's Secretary Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi; (Fatah 'Abduli), member of the party's Executive Committee and the party's representative in Europe; (Humayan Ardalan), a prominent member of the party; and (Nuri Bin-Kurdi), known as Husayn Ahmad and one of the party's supporters. This regrettable incident, which occurred in a Berlin restaurant, was widely covered by international radios and news agencies.

Talabani Accuses Iran

JN1809165692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Four members from the delegation of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI] were assassinated following the conclusion of the Socialist International congress in Berlin yesterday. We asked Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], about the parties he suspects are behind the assassination:

[Begin recording] [Talabani] All signs indicate that this hideous crime, which was perpetrated last night against the well-known Kurdish leader, KDPI Secretary General Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, and three other Iranians, was conducted by an Iranian terrorist organization specializing in pursuing Iranian opposition members. This Iranian terrorist organization was responsible for assassinating martyr Dr. Abdorrahman Qasemlu; for booby-trapping some cars in the Iraqi Kurdistan region against Iranian Kurds; for assassinating some Iranian opposition members in al-Sulaymaniyah and Raniyah; and for perpetrating other crimes in Paris, Germany, and other countries. I believe that the main objective behind perpetrating these crimes is to scare the Iranian opposition and the world, particularly the European countries. It is an attempt to tell them that Iranian terrorism is still there and threatens the sovereignty and stability of these European countries for the sake of peddling some interests. As you may know, defeatist policies toward Iranian terrorism yielded some fruit, sometimes in Lebanon, Austria, and other countries. These policies encouraged this Iranian terrorist organ to continue its hideous crimes.

[Unidentified reporter] Jalal Talabani, what is new in the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan in particular, and in Iraq in general?

[Talabani] What is new is specifically as follows: The Kurdish administration began to operate the factories in Iraqi Kurdistan and to pay salaries to employees. It also began serious moves to resolve some problems. This is on the domestic level. Second, an Iraqi opposition meeting will soon be held in Iraqi Kurdistan to try to

merge all the factions of the Iraqi opposition in the Iraqi national congress, which resulted from the Vienna conference last June. What is also new is that the people are waiting for fulfillment of the international promise of allocating some of the frozen Iraqi assets in European banks to give humanitarian aid to the Iraqis in northern, central, and southern Iraq.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the embargo imposed on northern and southern Iraq achieved the desired results?

[Talabani] I believe that the international presence to guarantee the implementation of Resolution 688, which was submitted to the UN Security Council by Mr. Roland Dumas, encourages the Iraqi people's struggle. It also provides some security and comfort for the people in Iraqi Kurdistan and southern Iraq. However, we believe that the recent resolution regarding the safe haven area is insufficient and incomprehensive. We hope that it will expand to prevent the Iraqi land forces and artillery from attacking our Shiite brothers in southern Iraq who are exposed to continuous repressive and brutal campaigns.

[Reporter] Jalal Talabani, thank you. [end recording]

Commentary Blames Iran

NC2009192592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] News agencies on 18 September reported the treacherous terrorist operation which resulted in the martyrdom of a number of the leaders of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] of Iran, including party Secretary General Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi. The fingers of accusation this time point to the Iranian Government or to extremist quarters in Iran which sponsor organized terrorism outside Iranian territory. These quarters have carried out several terrorist operations against Iranian opponents over the past few years, including the assassination of martyr struggler Dr. Qasemlu [former DPK leader] three years ago. They also have carried out other operations against Iranian opposition parties and have detonated several car bombs inside Iraqi Kurdistan to intimidate DPK cadres and members.

Regardless of the extent of the present Iranian Government's knowledge of these activities, it ultimately will be unable to acquit itself of terrorism and of the crimes, which are met with resentment and denunciation by all free men in the world, as well as by governments and humanitarian and international organizations, which denounce terrorism and terrorists.

The Iranian Government is called on to clarify its stand clearly on these operations, which do not serve at all the Iranian people and government. On the contrary, this bad reputation will isolate Iran from the outside world and greatly harm its diplomatic, economic, and trade relations with other states. The Iranian Government is called on to carefully study the experience of other states that have sponsored terrorism and to compare the profits these states have reaped with the losses they have incurred. The Iranian Government thus will learn about the pros and cons of this behavior, which is contrary to all international laws and charters and to the teachings of all tolerant, heavenly religions. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Radio Comments

NC2009190492 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Station commentary: "What Does the Assassination of the Leaders of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran Mean?"]

[Text] Dear listeners. The criminal hand that in the past assassinated Dr. 'Abderrahman Qasemlu, leader of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] of Iran, has now reached his comrade Sadeq Sharafkandi, who took over Qasemlu's post following the latter's assassination.

We say at the start that the Kurdish liberation movement has never pursued the course of terrorism. This is a unique trait of our struggle for liberation and we will never deviate from it because our revolution in all parts of Kurdistan is a just and honest revolution. It will not deviate from its honorable and right course, contrary to the governments that are occupying Kurdistan. The latter have pursued every vile course, policy, and plan without worrying about the consequences. The important thing for them is to attain the results they want in any possible way.

But the Kurdish parties have pursued the course of honorable challenge. They have not endangered the lives of innocent civilians who have nothing to do with our people's tragedy. They have not attempted to provoke panic, aimed their rifles at people who have nothing to do with our cause, or moved their military struggles outside the country. All countries recognize that we have not attempted to move the battle abroad, even during the most difficult circumstances of our struggle. We have not [word indistinct] even those who were partially responsible for our tragedy, even though our hands very easily could have reached them.

The assassination of Dr. Sharafkandi and his colleagues is merely a form of government terrorism, black hatred, and bloody punishment. Those who are moving toward and becoming deeply involved in this course undoubtedly have become bankrupt and have lost the language of reason and dialogue as well as all humanitarian qualities and honorable dealings with others.

Such actions open the door for everyone to do the same regardless of the consequences. Some parties understand nothing but the language of terrorism, killings, and the shedding of blood. They exercise their authority and diplomacy over the territories of other countries for that

purpose. This is categorically rejected by the international community. The international community should put an end to this and punish the criminals and devious people who are perpetrating these activities.

Countries in which these crimes are committed should shoulder full responsibility and prevent the killers from escaping, regardless of the position of those who are behind them and instigating them to commit these hideous crimes. We saw how the Austrian Government closed the file of the assassination of Dr. Qasemlu as soon as it identified the party behind it. We call on the German Government to expose the identity of the killers. We call on the participants in the International Socialist conference to condemn this crime, its perpetrators, and its instigators.

Iranian Intervention Protested to UN Chief

JN2009102992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] New York, 20 Sep (INA)—Iraq has once again protested the Iranian regime's violations of the principles of good neighborliness and its flagrant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs.

This came in a letter sent by Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, to the UN secretary general. The letter was circulated at the UN General Assembly on 18 September as an official document of the Security Council.

The letter notes the confessions made by a number of Iranian spies apprehended inside Iraq, not to mention the confessions of some other Iraqi prisoners of war recruited by the Iranian regime to carry out subversive acts inside Iraq.

The letter, citing the confessions of a number of deceived prisoners of war, noted that these agents meant to blow up or sabotage several vital economic installations as well as several headquarters of accredited foreign diplomatic missions in Baghdad.

U.S. Overflights Protested

JN2009124092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Iraq has informed the United Nations that U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace for purposes of surveillance and harassment.

In a protest memorandum handed over to the UN secretary general in this regard today, Iraq noted that the U.S. aircraft's violations of the Iraqi airspace during the period of 8-18 September totaled 715 air sorties.

The memorandum added that the U.S. flights centered over Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, Zakho, al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Qurnah, and al-Samawah, as well as several other villages in northern and southern Iraq.

2,000 Killed in al-Nasiriyah Factory Explosion

NC1909161892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] After Saddam's regime perpetrated the heinous crime of blowing up the al-Nasiriyah textile factory while the workers were inside, our sources said that 2,000 workers died in this criminal incident. They reported that wailing and weeping filled the city. Many corpses were so badly burned that it was difficult to identify them.

It should be noted that Saddam's regime, following the declaration of the air exclusion zone in the south, has been destroying industrial centers there and transferring important machinery to Baghdad.

Knesset Golan Debate Begins; Rabin Criticized

TA2109092592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Knesset is currently conducting a special session initiated by the Likud on the Golan issue. Our correspondent Ge'ula Even reports from the plenary hall:

The discussion initiated by the Likud is taking place in an orderly manner and concerns the Golan issue and the peace negotiations. Likud Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau, who opened the debate, strongly criticized Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, defining his moves as a fraud. You in Labor, Landau said, are deceiving the public. The Labor government is prepared for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and numerous concessions in the territories in general, Landau said, addressing Rabin: You promised there will be no territorial concessions during the term of the current Knesset, but you intend to force settlements off the Golan Heights, despite the fact that you have no mandate from the public to remove settlements from the Golan.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is slated to respond to these remarks by 'Uzi Landau, as well as to MK's Ari'el Sharon and Binyamin Netanyahu, who will speak here in a few minutes. In the meantime, let us note that the Labor faction met earlier for a briefing from Rabin on the negotiations between the delegations in Washington. MK Eli Dayan, the head of the faction and coalition, asked all the Labor and coalition members to support the prime minister and was assured of that.

Rabin told the faction that he would not comment on the opposition's activity, stating: It hurts them that the negotiations that began in the framework of the Madrid conference have in fact entered a practical stage. We do not want to repeat the price the Likud paid for peace with Egypt. We will not get into territorial clarifications before Syria says that it sees peace as a full peace which stands on its own two feet and is not conditional on progress or lack of progress with the other delegations. Rabin repeated his assessment that within six to 12 months we will attain something, but did not define what that something is. This is what Rabin told the Labor faction, and he will apparently repeat the gist of these remarks in his response to the Likud in the Knesset.

Rabin Addresses Knesset

TA2109105492 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 0857 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Response by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to motions to the agenda during a special Knesset recess session on the Golan and the peace process at the Knesset in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset: The current government has a mandate and a commitment to the public—based on what we proposed to it during the election campaign and on the basic guidelines that provided the basis for the establishment and operation of the government—to act toward attaining peace with the Arab countries and attaining an interim arrangement with the Palestinians in the territories. We will act to fulfill this commitment, because our goal is peace—a peace that will provide security. We will act in accordance with our path and conviction and not according to the Likud's platform.

On 9 September I presented the government's positions. They are unchanged; however, I would like to clarify: Today's instructions to the delegation conducting the negotiations with the Syrians are—as they were then and as they will be in the future, too—to reach full peace—meaning open borders, free movement of people and merchandise from Syria to Israel and from Israel to Syria, diplomatic relations, embassies, normalization—and a peace treaty that stands on its own two feet, without being conditional on what is or is not achieved with the other delegations in the framework of the talks begun at the Madrid conference. As long as we do not receive a positive reply from Syria to these two points, we will not get into a discussion of the territorial issues, except for what lies at the basis of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference.

This is taking place already after the peace with Egypt and, as we know, the negotiations are based on the two UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. I hope that those who were ministers in the Likud government and who went to the Madrid conference on the basis of this letter of invitation remember what it says. Therefore, I see no point in getting into the details and issues raised here at this stage. We will continue the negotiations with the aim of reaching peace—peace that will provide security. This is how we will operate. We have the mandate for this. We will exhaust the chance for peace in order to attain security, and, as regards the various arguments presented here, we will get to them when we possess a proposal which the government has agreed on and which we will then present to the Knesset. Until then, we will continue the negotiations.

I did not expect any miracles or wonders. I said it would take between six to 12 months. I hope that we may, perhaps, succeed in a shorter period of time. It is surely impossible to submit results acceptable to the government after two months of negotiations. We are in the midst of negotiations—perhaps at their beginning as serious negotiations—and therefore, I see no point in getting into answers to all sorts of hypothetical arguments which rely on anachronistic concepts. Therefore, I suggest that all the proposals be transferred to a discussion by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. I am going to appear there tomorrow anyway. This committee will surely hold additional discussions which will accompany the ongoing process. Today it is pointless to get into the speculations that were raised here and which have no realistic basis at this time. Thank you.

Right-Wing Parties Join to "Topple the Government"

TA2009201292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] This evening all the right-wing parties decided to launch a joint struggle to topple the government against the background of the political negotiations. Supporters convened this evening in Giv'at Shmu'el, where they decided to establish a joint command comprised of activists from the right-wing parties; the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; and the representatives of settlements on the Golan Heights. This team will consolidate a strategy to pursue their struggle. At the end of the convention, a convoy of cars set out for the home of Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, to hand him a list of housing starts the settlers are planning in the territories. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports:

The people must be shaken out of their indifference and brought out into the streets. Perhaps then Yitzhaq Rabin will understand that it is not only the settlers on the Golan Heights who oppose any withdrawal from Eretz Yisra'el. This was decided this evening by the right-wing protest lobby called One Israel [Yisra'el Ahat], which is one of six protest lobbies and organizations set up by the right-wing parties after the elections. We have drawn conclusions from our defeat. The right wing will no longer be divided but will form one front called One Israel, which will speak in one voice against the government. Thus promised Ari'el Sharon, who will stand at the head of the front.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] This battle should be waged in the Knesset, in towns and settlements, and in schools and work places throughout Israel and abroad—both in the Jewish settlements of Eretz Yisra'el and throughout the Diaspora. I believe in our ability to win this struggle.

[Tzomet Knesset Member Moshe Peled] The struggle for the Golan Heights is exactly the same as the struggle for Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. [applause] This movement, which is starting off here, tonight, will lead the nation. It is a movement with much energy, vigor, and young people who love Eretz Yisra'el and love marching through every intersection and road. [end recording]

Plans Said Under Way for al-Asad-Rabin Summit

TA2109080892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Egypt may mediate between Israel and Syria in an attempt to coordinate a historic summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during October. This was reported to IDF Radio by Arab sources in Washington. A Saudi paper reports this morning that a meeting may take place between the Israeli and Syrian foreign ministers in New York. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports from Washington.

[Begin Beck recording] Palestinian sources in Washington had believed that Usamah al-Baz's expected visit to Israel, which was scheduled to take place 10 days ago already, would deal with the initiative to hold a historic meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. In view of the cool reactions from Jerusalem, following the entertainment of a similar idea by the French, Arab sources told IDF Radio that they now believe the Egyptians may harness themselves to the attempt to hold a historic summit between Yitzhaq Rabin and Hafiz al-Asad during October.

It is not yet clear when al-Baz will come to Israel, but Cairo, like other Arab capitals, believes that an Israeli-Syrian summit—which is only an idea at the moment and for which Syria's support is not yet clear—will give the Israeli-Syrian negotiations the necessary push to get them started on the path from which there is no return even before the elections in the United States. The Arabs believe that such a dramatic event may help Bush get reelected and, if not, will limit the possible slowdown in the peace process should Clinton get elected to the White House. A Rabin-al-Asad summit, the Arab sources believe, will enable the Israeli Government to explain to the Israeli public the change in the Syrian position that makes territorial concessions on the Golan possible and necessary.

Israeli sources who doubt the possibility of a summit say that al-Asad has recently told various mediators that he will agree to meet with Rabin only after Israel undertakes to fully withdraw from the Golan. In its latest issue, the Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bases itself on senior Western sources in claiming that under these circumstances, another meeting may be possible: a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' in New York, during the UN General Assembly's deliberations. The sources, probably French ones, quoted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT said that the meeting, if held, will be sponsored by France and other EC countries. [end recording]

Jerusalem refuses to issue an official comment on these reports from Washington. Yaron Qulas reports:

Official Jerusalem refuses to comment on the report on the attempts to organize a summit between Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian President al-Asad. There is neither a confirmation nor a denial of the report but rather a refusal to comment. At the same time, we can note that upon presenting his government to the Knesset Yitzhaq Rabin appealed to the leaders of the Arab countries to meet with him. In that Knesset speech, Rabin stated that he would be prepared to meet with any Arab leader anywhere and anytime.

Yesterday, at the end of the cabinet meeting, several ministers were requested to address the possibility of or the need for a meeting between the heads of state. Minister Moshe Shahal said that at a certain stage, the delegation heads cannot advance the negotiations and a

meeting is then required on a higher level—on the political level—to give the contacts the necessary push forward.

Beilin Unaware of Plans

TA2109081792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Studio talk between moderator Shalom Qital and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, political correspondent Shlomo Raz. On the peace talks, I would like you first to comment on the banner story, based on Arab sources, that speaks of an effort to organize a summit between Rabin and al-Asad. Is anything known about this here?

[Raz] I checked this with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who returned from the United States yesterday and who had earlier visited Egypt as well. He, apparently, is the man who should know best whether there is any basis to this report, but, in fact, Yosi Beilin knows nothing about it:

[Begin Beilin recording] I know nothing about this. In the talks I held in the United States, both at the National Security Council and at the State Department, we discussed the importance of a political meeting at the highest possible level, in addition to the regular meetings being conducted between the Israeli and Syrian delegations, in order to promote a breakthrough, but nothing specific—neither the people nor the date—was discussed. [end recording]

[Raz] In other words, Shalom, there was mention of the need to upgrade the meetings from the level of officials to that of elected statesmen—namely, the political level—in order to promote the negotiations. I also asked Deputy Minister Beilin whether the reference is to the foreign minister level or that of others, and he clearly emphasized that the specific level to which the Americans are interested in upgrading the talks was not discussed. As mentioned, the authoritative people in Jerusalem know nothing about the reports of an attempt to bring al-Asad and Rabin together.

[Qital] There are additional matters. Shim'on Peres is currently in the United States, and the Americans and the Egyptians are trying to have the current UN General Assembly suspend anti-Israeli resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Has any headway been made on this issue?

[Raz] Yes. They are willing to participate in the effort, initiated by Israel, to abolish several—36 in fact—resolutions adopted against Israel in the past. Yosi Beilin dealt with this issue, too, during his stay in the United States, and he gave us one example of such an anti-Israeli resolution.

[Begin Beilin recording] Some of these resolutions refer to purely anachronistic matters, such as a call on Israel to participate in an international conference, forgetting that this conference took place a year ago already. Our effort in this regard is to lead to the suspension of all these resolutions during the General Assembly's deliberations this year, in view of the ongoing negotiations. I discussed this in numerous talks I held with U.S. legislators and decisionmakers, as well as with the Egyptians last week. The Egyptians are prepared to give help us to some degree. [end recording]

[Raz] The partial help referred to is that the Egyptians are, indeed, prepared to take part in this effort, but they will not fight an attempt to condemn Israel on the issue of the Golan or Jerusalem; these are two sensitive issues, of which one, at least—the Golan—is currently on the agenda. Egypt will, however, join the U.S. effort to abolish or at least suspend previous anti-Israeli resolutions adopted by the Assembly.

Another matter that will arise in the current Assembly's deliberations: Israel will make another attempt to join the bloc of European countries. Today Israel is not part of any bloc, and its efforts in this regard are intended to enable it to try to finally be elected to the UN Security Council.

Rabin Approves Military 'Peace Administration'

TA2109093792 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Several days ago Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, approved the chief of staff's recommendation to augment the General Staff's Planning and Intelligence Branches. The action is in anticipation of the numerous tasks expected to be assigned soon concerning both the peace process and necessary preparations in strategic planning that are subject to political arrangements.

In practice, the defense minister has approved the establishment of a team which General Staff personnel have nicknamed "the Peace Administration." The team's main purpose is to increase the number of senior staffers within the Intelligence and Planning Branches who will focus on the peace process. Last week, Colonel Tzvi Stauber was appointed head of the strategic planning department within the Planning Branch and promoted to brigadier general.

Brig. Gen. Stauber has replaced Col. M., who was forced to resign from his post in the wake of the decision to appoint a more senior officer to this slot. In parallel, an Intelligence Branch colonel was appointed as political intelligence officer. He will coordinate all the auxiliary activities of the Intelligence Branch's research programs in the various committees participating in the peace talks, and submit intelligence assessments relevant to the peace process.

In addition, the reinforcement of the Planning and Intelligence Branches will aid Lieutenant General Ehud

Baraq, the chief of staff, in formulating the stands of the General Staff that will be subsequently submitted to the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs and the cabinet in anticipation of the political resolutions expected to be adopted in the near future.

Peres: Israel To Lose 'If It Drags Its Feet'

TA2109060592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Report from Washington by Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a meeting of Israeli diplomats in New York, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the new government is going for peace on the basis of its conviction that Israel will lose out if it drags its feet. We must achieve peace before the Arabs have nuclear weapons, Peres declared.

In the same meeting, attended by Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Consuls General Uri Oren and Dror Zeigerman, the Likud's last political appointments, Shim'on Peres promised: I will not allow any of you to suffer because of your personal views but, at the same time, I expect you to represent the policy of the new government. Israel's problems in the United States in recent years were not ones related to information or public relations, the foreign minister said, but rather policy. The new policy speaks for itself most effectively. [passage omitted]

Shin Bet Captures PFLP Archives From Leader

TA2009075892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The Shin Bet has uncovered a secret operational plan by the rejectionist organizations in the territories to foil the autonomy through terrorist acts. The secret agreement among the organizations was discovered upon the capture of the commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in the territories at the beginning of the month. The archives of the organization were also seized. It is assessed that this will shortly lead to the detention of hundreds of PFLP activists. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

The Shin Bet has uncovered the PFLP archives in the territories, including an agreement recently struck among the radical rejectionist organizations there for a joint operation aimed at foiling the autonomy plan. The agreement is signed by the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The agreement was found in the course of the capture of Ahmad (Qattamash), the PFLP commander in the territories, at the beginning of the month. In the agreement, (Qattamash) emphasized that reference is to temporary cooperation, for tactical needs only. The organization's archives were seized in (Qattamash)'s hideout in Ramallah. There are hundreds of documents with names of hundreds of the organization's activists in the territories. In fact, the organizational infrastructure of George Habash's organization in the territories has been exposed, and it is assessed that this exposure will lead to the arrest of hundreds of this organization's members.

Israel Television's Arabic service last Friday broadcast exclusive photographs of the break into (Qattamash's) apartment. He was captured by Shin Bet and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units when he was in bed with his wife. The documents found on his desk contained guidelines for the organization's activists in the territories. The documents were placed in special pills swallowed by the messengers who thus relayed the guidelines to the organization's activists. Four hideouts were found in the apartment with the documents comprising the organization's archives. The documents indicate that Ahmad (Qattamash), 42, had direct contacts with George Habash and was a member of the PFLP's political bureau overseas. He had managed to evade the Shin Bet for 16 years, with the help of a false Israeli identity card and hundreds of disguises he used to wear. The documents in the archives indicate that the PFLP assumed responsibility for terrorist acts it did not carry out. An 'Ofra resident, Tzvi Klein, was murdered in Ramallah at the beginning of the year by a Fatah squad, led by a female Bi'r Zayt University student, Abir Wahidi. The PFLP took advantage of the timing of the incident, a day before the resumption of the peace talks in Washington, and claimed responsibility for the murder. (Qattamash) also instructed his activists to live modestly, while he himself led a luxurious life, living in Ramallah villas that served as his hideouts.

King Said 'Prepared' To Receive Iraqi Opposition

JN2009183592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The general coordinator of the Vienna Iraqi opposition conference, Ahmad al-Jalabi, has disclosed important information linked with contacts between Jordan and the Iraqi opposition. This information is contained in a report from Tehran by correspondent Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] The general coordinator of the Vienna Iraqi opposition conference told our radio today that a transformation has occurred in the formula for change in Iraq. The transformation is represented by Jordanian King Husayn's assertion that he is prepared to receive an Iraqi opposition delegation in Amman soon to discuss the required change in Iraq, with the aim of ending the Iraqi people's suffering. The source, who declined to reveal his name [as heard], added that he heard this personally from King Husayn when he met him recently in the British capital.

The same source asserted that an Iraqi opposition delegation is currently visiting Saudi Arabia and another will soon leave for Kuwait. The delegations represent the Iraqi National Congress, which emanates from the Vienna conference. Their aim is to discuss with Gulf officials ways of supporting the Iraqi people and helping them establish a safe haven in southern Iraq. [passage omitted]

Officials Confirm Air Maneuvers With U.S.

JN2109065092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 92 pp 1,5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Officials confirmed Sunday that Jordan and the United States carried out joint military manoeuvres last week for the first time in three years, but they played down the significance of the move saying these are routine military exercises that are carried out with other countries like Britain and France.

A senior official said the week-long exercises, which ended last Thursday, aim at "improving the air defence system as part of a programme that was revived after a two-year suspension."

The official, who asked not to be quoted by name, said the exercises were scheduled to take place in June but were delayed "for technical reasons."

According to this and other government officials, the exercises were part of a regular training programme which has no political implications. They said the Jordanian Armed Forces also hold joint exercises on regular basis with other countries, especially Britain and France.

The U.S. Defence Department indefinitely postponed joint military exercises with Jordan last June to emphasise American claims at the time that the Kingdom was not fully committed to the implementation of economic sanctions against Iraq.

Washington froze military aid to Jordan at the height of the Gulf crisis in 1990 in protest against Jordan's sympathy with Iraq.

The United States last held joint exercises with the Jordanian Armed Forces before the Gulf crisis.

Jordanian-American relations had begun to improve after His Majesty King Husayn visited Washington in March. The King also held talks with U.S. President George Bush in Washington last month while recuperating after undergoing surgery at an American hospital.

Sources said eight U.S. F-15 fighter jets took part in last week's exercises in the southeastern part of the country along with Jordanian F-5 and Mirage fighters.

King 'Completely Recovered,' To Return 24 Sep

JN2009092092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] His majesty the king will return home on Thursday, the 24th of September, after he has completely recovered from the surgery he had undergone in the United States. The prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, who made the announcement, said Thursday will be a public holiday for all government departments on the occasion.

Israeli Arabs To Meet With King

TA2009092892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have granted permission for seven Israeli Arabs to enter Jordan on 24 September to extend to King Husayn their wishes for a speedy recovery. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the seven are the head of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, heads of municipalities and local councils, and qadis. Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the head of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, told our correspondent this is the first time since the death of Queen 'Aliya that Israeli Arabs will be visiting Jordan and confering with King Husayn.

Government Accused of Giving in to U.S. 'Pressure'

JN2109094392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Sep 92 p 26

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah entitled: "Even Washington..!"]

[Text] Transit operations at the port of al-'Aqabah came to a halt in June as a result of U.S. pressure imposed on us in the name of "commitment to UN resolutions"—a term synonymous with banning the import of food and

medicine and everything authorized by the United Nations for the Iraqi people.

What is painful is that our government has responded to the U.S. pressures and we have lost 125 million Jordanian dinars as estimated by the shipping agents' association.

What is painful also is that through its military terrorist means, the United States has transferred the Iraqi transit operations to Turkey to placate "the ally," which is suffering losses as a result of the closure of its oil pipeline and suspension of the large scale Iraqi-Turkish economic relations.

We must raise our voice in the face of Washington, which is selling our interests to a third country, and we must not give up our national interests. We must not remain silent over the siege and starvation of our people and country. We cannot allow Washington to whitewash its image in front of Turkey at our expense and at the expense of our interests.

Washington is not God Almighty. It cannot ban or authorize as it wishes. Washington has interests in this region and we can harm these interests, the first of which lies in the Washington negotiations and the "neutral" and "honest" U.S. role in these negotiations.

Washington, which is harming our pan-Arab and national interests in such issues as the transit issue, is neither neutral nor honest in a more serious issue; namely, the Middle East and Arab-Israeli conflict. The one who sells the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah to the ports of Turkey is selling Jordan and its interests to "Israel"!!

We should not bow, even to Washington!

Government Warns Reporters About Biased Coverage

JN1909080292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 92 pp 1, 5

["By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter"]

[Excerpts] Amman—The government, in a move that will virtually eliminate media coverage of the investigation against two Lower House deputies, has warned newspaper editors that publishing stories could put them at risk of prosecution.

The Ministry of Information said in a letter that it wanted to draw editors' attention to a 1959 criminal proceedings law which states that newspaper editors could be imprisoned for publishing information which could influence judges, witnesses or court staff entrusted with investigation.

According to the law, editors could also be made accountable if they published information which could prevent anyone from giving information to the court or affect public opinion with a view to making it favourable to one party or another in the case.

The punishment, according to this law, includes imprisonment for no more than six months and payment of a fine not exceeding JD [Jordanian dinar] 50.

A senior government official, however, explained that while the law makes it "extremely difficult" to cover the case, journalists can still report news and facts even though they have to consult more closely with their lawyers.

Some Jordanian and Amman-based foreign journalists understood this law to mean almost a blanket ban on reporting on the case, since "anything" that might be written on the issue might be broadly considered to influence the course of the investigation and trial.

Ministry officials also contacted Amman-based journalists of foreign news organisations to inform them that the law also applied to them.

"The Ministry of Information is drawing the attention of editors and media people in Jordan to certain clauses in the law which regulates the public proceedings of cases under investigation," Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said in a statement quoted by Reuter news agency.

Officials said the warning was prompted by recent stories which they decribed as unfairly prejudging the outcome of the expected trial. [passage omitted]

Security forces last month arrested the two Islamist deputies, Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish, saying the authority will try them for illegal weapons possession and links to what official sources said was a foreign based group.

The detention of the two deputies drew conflicting views from analysts, observers, their supporters and political opponents. [passage omitted]

The government had privately asked newspaper editors to verify facts before publishing any information on the case and there seemed to be agreement to stick to balanced and accurate reports on the case before the minister's letter was sent to editors last week.

The government was mostly rattled about a series of columns in daily newspapers prejudging the outcome of the case based on speculation and not facts, officials and observers told the JORDAN TIMES.

But despite the government's apparent sensitivity towards a public discussion of the case, the senior government official said that it cannot ban newspapers from reporting on the case, especially if the reports carried verified facts and were not based on speculation.

"Newspapers have to consult their lawyers since the government cannot do more than apply the law," the official, who asked for anonymity, told the JORDAN TIMES.

But he conceded that the government was initially unsettled by the "wild treatment of the subject," and had asked the newspapers to stick to the facts. [passage omitted]

The information minister in his letter to the editors quoted articles from the 1959 courts law and not from the Press and Publications Law, which might be expected to govern this kind of case and its coverage in the press.

The senior official who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES said he understood the dilemma of the newspapers because they are working in the absence of a new Press and Publications Law. The old Press and Publications Law has been suspended by recent successive governments since it is widely agreed that it is not exactly democratic. The new law was being debated by Parliament in its extraordinary summer session. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Returns From Visit to Tehran

JN1909181792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus after a visit to Tehran. During the visit, he conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who handed him a letter in reply to the president's message. [passage omitted]

Briefs al-Asad on Visit

JN2009113692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad met with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and listened to a report about his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Interior Minister Returns From Visit to Turkey

JN2009073792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Damascus—Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus last night at the end of an official four-day visit to Turkey, during which he met with Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

In a predeparture statement to reporters in Istanbul, Dr. Harbah affirmed the success of the talks he and his delegation held with the Turkish side. He termed the talks as fruitful, constructive, and positive. He noted that he felt, during his meetings with Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, immense willingness and determination to promote the ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Turkey in all fields, particularly in the educational, cultural, economic, trade, and information fields.

Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah added: On behalf of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, I extended an invitation to Demirel to visit Syria. Demirel gratefully accepted the invitation, with the understanding that a date for the visit will be fixed later.

Dr. Harbah also spoke about the talks held by the security and administrative committees and also about the provisions included in their minutes, which spelled out positive and constructive bases and foundations for promoting, maintaining, and enhancing ties between the two countries.

The interior minister and his Turkish counterpart, Ismet Sezgin, yesterday signed the minutes of the final session of Syrian-Turkish talks, which lasted three days, with the two delegations present. Both ministers, Dr. Harbah and Sezgin, delivered speeches during the signing ceremony, affirming the need to continue efforts to enhance joint cooperation to protect the joint vital interests of both Syria and Turkey.

Dr. Harbah added: I found the Turkish officials extremely concerned to maintain constant continuity in our ties. They also affirmed that they would not harm the vital interests of the Syrian people. Regarding water resources, the Turkish officials said that the Euphrates waters belong to the three countries, namely, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq, as contained in the joint statement issued by the foreign ministers of Syria and Turkey.

For his part, Sezgin indicated that the success of the talks and the fruitful results they yielded could nurture the ties dictated by the geographic proximity of our two countries. These results, he added, reflect the ancient historical ties between both countries.

Sezgin said that the results of the talks will further advance Turkish-Syrian ties.

The Turkish interior minister affirmed the inevitability of the constant promotion of bilateral ties in the interest of the two peoples in both friendly countries.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar, Rabbani Agree To Hold Council

BK1909001892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1858 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—Afghanistan's President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Hezb-e Eslami chief Golboddin Hekmatyar have reached agreement on calling a Shura, or traditional Afghan council, to elect a new government, the Hezb-run AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) reported Friday.

Two other important mojahedin leaders, Ettihad-e Eslami chief Rasol Sayyaf and Harakat head Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, also took part in the three-hour meeting held Thursday at Paghman, west of Kabul, the news agency said.

This would be the first meeting between Hekmatyar and Rabbani since the latter took office on June 28, two months after mojahedin guerrillas overthrew Afghanistan's former Soviet-installed government. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

ANA said the four leaders agreed on a six-point plan which, besides the Shura, calls for the removal of controversial Uzbek militiamen from Kabul, though a date for their departure remained to be fixed. Communists who belonged to the former regime are also to be removed from positions of authority, Hezb prisoners in Kabul will be freed, and a six-man commission is to be set up to make recommendations to the shura, under the reported agreement.

The commission was to be made up of two delegates from each of Afghanistan's mojahedin factions.

Finally, Sayyaf and Mohammedi will be charged with the task of supervising the implementation of the accord, the ANA dispatch said.

The Shura, it said, would take place before October 28, when Rabbani's four-month mandate expires. It would consist of representatives elected by prominent Afghans and by mojahedin commanders in each district of the country.

Qaribor Rehman Saeed, a Hezb leader, told AFP that the accord represented "a victory" for Hezb-e Eslami. "The accord covers Hezb's main demands. Warclouds are receding," he said.

Second Meeting Held 19 Sep

BK2009090692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 20 (AFP)—Minor points of agreement have been reached in fresh talks between Afghan opponents, a government spokesman said Sunday.

During discussions Saturday, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and opposition mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar reiterated their committment to remove ex-communist elements from both sides, including militia forces, Defence Ministry spokesman Yunus Kanuni said.

"Hekmatyar has a common demand for all former militia groups to withdraw from Kabul, but is mostly concerned about the Uzbek 53rd Division of General Abdor Rashid Dostam," said Kanuni.

He added that during the talks in the Paghman district north of Kabul, Hekmatyar had also agreed in principle to the upcoming Hal- va-Aaqd special assembly to decide the new Afghan leadership.

"Hekmatyar has promised he will send delegates to this shura," said Kanuni, "but whether he does or not only time will tell. In the past he has always broken his agreements."

The acceptance of the "shura" represents an about-face by Hekmatyar, whose previously stated call has been for popular national elections rather than a forum with a debate among selected representatives, local sources said.

The Defence Ministry spokesman said a new demand had been made by Hekmatyar concerning the release of Hezb-e-Eslami prisoners captured by government forces, but that Rabbani had rejected it until Hekmatyar guaranteed that the Hezb would stop interfering with traffic on national highways.

Rabbani specifically demanded that the road from Kabul to the Pakistan border and the Salang road, which is subject to the tyranny of armed Hezb highway robbers, "be kept open."

Included in the talks were the leaders of two other mojahedin parties, Rasul Sayyaf and Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, and a four-man delegation of Pakistani religious scholars.

Kanuni said Rabbani had gone to Paghman to meet only these people, but that Hekmatyar had unexpectedly arrived and the Afghan president was pressured into meeting with the rebel faction leader.

He acknowledged that Rabbani has publicly declared that Hekmatyar is a criminal and should be held criminally accountable. Kanuni said Hekmatyar had admitted wrongdoing and apologised to Rabbani for the rocket attacks on Kabul.

The meeting was the second between Rabbani and Hekmatyar in four days, after talks Thursday yielded no agreement, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, peace delegations have failed to stop the fighting in the western Kabul suburb of Khushal Mena,

as Hazara Shi'ites belonging to the Hezb-e-Wahdat faction battled Sunnite Ettehad-e- Eslami faction mojahedin for a third straight day.

The fighting has intensified and spread, with salvoes from multi- barreled rocket launchers now landing in the already devastated Kote Sangi district. Kabul's Silo bakery also took two direct hits Sunday morning, witnesses reported.

Kanuni said that a four-party mojahedin peace delegation had so far failed to secure a ceasefire between Wahdat and Ettehad.

Procedures for Picking Leader Agreed Upon

LD2009172992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Borhanoddin Rabbani has announced that the leaders of the four Afghan mojahedin groups have declared their readiness to carry out previously agreed upon accords on the transfer of power at the end of the term of the current government.

Rabbani said: The plan is to proceed on the basis of previous accords and to establish, at the end of this term of government, a council for resolving problems and adopting laws [shora-ye hall va aqd]; the council will then make a decision about choosing Afghanistan's future leader.

He added: The council will have representatives from the mojahedin parties, which also include Hekmatyar's party.

In connection with the issue of clearing Kabul of armed forces, Rabbani said his goverment will carry out that program.

A few days ago, Rabbani, Sayyaf, Molawi Mohammad-Nabi, and Hekmatyar held discussions and exchanged views in western Kabul. This was the first meeting between Rabbani and Hekmatyar since the Rabbani government came to power.

Government Reporting of Agreement Criticized

LD2009143992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A meeting was held in Paghman District last Thursday with the participation of Brother Hekmatyar, Ostad Sayyaf, Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, and Mr. Rabbani. At the beginning of the meeting, Ostad Sayyaf, leader of Ettehad-e Eslami, and Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, amir of Harkat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, spoke. They stressed the importance of ejecting militia troops and dismissing communists from government posts. They approved the stance of Hezb-e Eslami, and promised that they would honestly cooperate in order for this matter to be fulfilled. Brother Hekmatyar then shed light on the current situation in the country, especially Kabul. He revealed many secret issues that are working against jihad and explained ways of getting out of the present situation. He once again emphasized Hezb-e Eslami's demands as regards the ejection of the militia and the purge of communists from the government. Finally, Mr. Rabbani spoke. He accepted all the conditions set out by Hezb-e Eslami, and once again undertook to implement them.

Because Hezb-e Eslami attended the meeting in all good faith, it broadcast, as a service to the nation, a report on it on Radio Message of Freedom to inform the Muslim nation and infidel-crushing mojahedin about what is going on in the country. Unfortunately, however, Kabul radio broadcast the report of this meeting after Western radios, which had obtained the report by various means, had reported the news.

This raises the question with our Muslim nation as to why Kabul radio did not, at an appropriate time, carry the report of the meeting which was attended by the head of the Kabul government. However, the important issue is why the radio did not want to, or was not allowed to, broadcast all details of the meeting and tell the audience about all major issues that were emphasized and agreed upon. Last night Kabul radio carried a report of the meeting in such a weak manner that all radio listeners understood that the report was written incorrectly. All main points of the agreement—the ejection of the militia from Kabul and the dismissal of communists from government positions—were ignored. Meanwhile, the whole nation already had learned about the main issues of the meeting from Radio Message of Freedom. Later, Western radios also carried the report on their news bulletins, almost in complete form, the same night. Last night, when Kabul radio broadcast the report in an incomplete and censored manner, the BBC in its Pashto program carried an interview with Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi. Although Mohammadi could not clearly state all provisions of the agreement consistently, he was able to tell the whole nation, as an eyewitness present at the meeting, that the focus of the meeting was the ejection of the savage militia troops from Kabul and the dismissal of the seditious communists from government posts. He also was able to say that once again Ostad Rabbani put his initials to the agreement. Ostad Sayyaf, leader of Ettehad-e Eslami, and Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, amir of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, signed the agreement as witnesses and promised that the provisions would be implemented as soon as possible.

Although the other side has many a time undertaken to eject the militia from Kabul and dismiss the seditious communists from the government and has signed agreements, it either never wanted to implement its undertakings or it has not been able to make the militia accept the agreements. For the sake of the high interests of the sacred jihad and our oppressed nation, we give those

friends time, and ask God to give them the courage to implement this agreement and the previous ones and display loyalty to their undertakings. We hope that they will be able to change in order to show whether or not they can keep their promises, and tell our oppressed nation whether they are able to fulfill their undertakings.

Fighting Erupts Between Rival Mojahedin Groups

BK1909120592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 19 (AFP)—Peace talks to end fighting between Sunni and Shi'ite mojahedin groups have broken down with both sides continuing to pound each other across a suburb of the Afghan capital, a faction leader said Saturday.

'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat, said a delegation including defence ministry observers and representatives from the warring factions had failed to implement a ceasefire between his forces and the Sunni Ettehad-e-Islami.

Fighting between the groups, who occupy areas of the western suburb of Khushal Mena, began again early Friday after nearly six weeks of peace in the area, which has been badly damaged by earlier battles prompted by the intense ethnic and religious rivalry between the two mojahedin factions.

A ceasefire had been due to come into effect from 5:00 p.m. (0030 GMT) Friday but shelling and fighting between troops using machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades were unabated, Mazari said.

Mazari, whose faction is made up mostly of ethnic Hazaras, said that in a Thursday meeting with Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Ettehad leader Rasul Sayyaf all parties had agreed in principle for peace, but not on the terms.

He said that Ittihad forces had fired on Wahdat positions first, using heavy artillery as well as light weapons. He said that Wahdat had been ordered not to counterattack but to hold their defensive positions only.

Four Hazara civilians had been killed and 40 more had been wounded in the shelling, Mazari said.

Heavy artillery shells continued to smash into the hillside behind Mazari's office until noon Saturday, apparently targetted at the Wahdat bunkers on the ridgeline which connects with the hill on which Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel is located.

As the Wahdat 23mm cannon on their hilltop eyrie returned fire at Ittihad positions, a 75-truck convoy carrying 550 tonnes of Pakistani wheat aid, arrived at the city's main bakery and grain silo nearby.

The silo lies on the periphery of Kushal Mena and received several direct hits from rockets during previous Wahdat-Ittihad fighting.

Commenting on a government statement read on Radio Kabul late Friday that both Wahdat and Ettehad should withdraw from Khusal Mena and allow Kabul Garrison forces to take their place, 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari said: "We have not agreed to that announcement."

He said that Wahdat was proposing a 600-man buffer force made up of mojahedin from three moderate groups.

Mazari said that if this buffer force is put into place the many thousands of Hazara refugees who fled from previous bouts of fighting would return to their homes.

The Ettehad is dominated by ethnic Pashtuns of the Saudi Arabian-based Wahabi religious sect and counts many volunteers from Arab nations among its forces.

The faction is generously supported by Saudi Arabia and has repeatedly fought with the Shi'ite Wahdat, who are linked to Iran.

The extent of official Iranian backing for Wahdat is not clear. Frontline fighters claim Tehran does not support them but the overseas Hazara community, in Iran and elsewhere, funds their activities.

Wahdat troops say they have no foreign volunteers fighting for them.

"We don't need this kind of help from foreigners, we take only help from God," said one teenager craddling his Russian-made Kalashnikov.

But Wahdat fighters claimed Saturday that they are receiving frontline support from some Sunni mojahedin groups who share the same anti-Wahabi sentiments.

There are other non-Hazara fighters with Wahdat. One volunteer identified himself as belonging to the Qizilbash, which is the second largest Shi'ite community in Afghanistan and descendants of Persian mercenaries who fought in Afghanistan in the mid-18th century.

Cease-Fire Declared

BK2009140492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Kabul, Sept 20 (AFP)—Two warring Afghan factions declared a ceasefire at midday Sunday after three days of intense battles between the rival Shi'ite and Sunni mojahedin groups but some rocket fire continued, a Afghan leader said.

'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, who heads the nine-party Shi'ite coalition called Hezb-e-Wahdat, said that the three day's fighting in the suburb of Khushal Mena with the Sunni Ettihad-e-Eslami had now officially stopped.

Afghan interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani gave assurances that the Ettihad leader Rasol Sayyaf had accepted the ceasefire from noon (0730 GMT), Mazari said.

Mazari said Wahdat had agreed to the ceasefire on Saturday afternoon but that Ettihad had continued the fighting.

Delegates from a peace keeping force had been sent to monitor the heavy weapons of both sides, but at least five rocket rounds exploded near Wahdat's headquarters below the Kabul Intercontinental Hotel, in violation of the ceasefire.

The orthopaedic centre of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was also hit by a rocket after the ceasefire but there were no casualties. The centre was closed on August 9 after two rockets gutted a warehouse containing a six-month supply of medicines.

Incoming rockets from Rishkor in the south of Kabul prompted speculation among Western observers that dissident Hezb-e-Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar had joined the fight.

Hekmatyar still has men based in Rishkor, and Sayyaf had denied that his men were responsible.

But Mazari said that Wahdat had intercepted radio messages from Sayyaf himself, ordering his two commanders in Rishkor to open fire on Khushal Mena.

Asked if he was confident that the ceasefire would hold, Mazari said Wahdat would keep its side of the bargain, but that he could not speak for the other side.

Ministry Supports Cease-Fire

LD2009174592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] A source at the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, while condemning the recent clashes between the Islamic Union and the Islamic Unity Party, has asked the parties involved to observe the cease-fire that was proposed by the peace delegation and to prepare the ground for the stationing of joint peace forces.

On the other hand, the head of the peace delegation, esteemed Sayed Norollah Emad, told a reporter this afternoon that the peace delegation is engaged in establishing a cease-fire between the warring groups. The delegation has sent missions to different places for the purpose of supervising the heavy weapons of all sides. The missions are as follows:

1. A peace mission headed by esteemed Abdol Rahman, the representative of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement group, to supervise the heavy weapons of the Islamic Union.

2. A peace mission headed by esteemed Sayed Abdol Wahab Pacha, representative of the National Islamic Front, to supervise the heavy weapons of the Islamic Unity Party.

He added that the peace delegation has succeeded in establishing a sporadic cease-fire today and yesterday between the sides; however, unfortunately the cease-fire has been broken. According to latest reports, the battles between the sides have decreased during the late hours of today.

Esteemed Emad said that the delegation is due to establish a full cease-fire between the sides as of tomorrow. If the sides do not abide by the efforts of the peace delegation, the delegation will ask the forces of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to use force to defend the life, property, and security of the people and to station its forces in the areas in question. [passage omitted]

Cabinet of Ministers Meets on Security Matters

LD2009180392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Presided over by Engineer Ahmad Shah, deputy prime minister and minister of internal affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], an extraordinary session of the ministers of the ISA was held today. During the session, which started at 1500 [1230 GMT] and ended at 1700, decisions were made about various issues.

It was decided that all provinces of the country should very soon form provincial councils and send the list of members to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It also was emphasized that all administrations must be reactivitated by related ministries.

Similarly a serious decison was made about security matters in the session of ministers, and all subversive individuals were asked to leave their areas to the Ministry of Defense of the ISA.

Islamic Party Commander Killed in Gardeyz

LD2009171992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpts] A commander of forces of Islamic Party of Afghanistan, brother Zabet Kochay, was martyred.

We have heard with sorrow that brother Zabet Kochay, a courageous commander of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan in Logar Province was martyred in Gardeyz city as a result of a treacherous foul attempt. [Koranic verse in Arabic omitted).

A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom, quoting a reliable military source of the Islamic Party, reported that the vehicle carrying brother Zabet Kochay and his companions was attacked this morning in Gardeyz city

by a number of the elements who have sold out. As a result, brother Zabet Kochay and his driver were martyred. One other person was severely injured.

The funeral of brother Zabet Kochay will take place tomorrow, Saturday, 5 Sonbola [21 September] at about 0900 hours in his family's graveyard at Daud Khel village, Logar.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers

Remarks on NAM, Bosnia, Pakistan, China

LD1809144592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1032 GMT 18 Sep 92

[First Friday prayer sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 18 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I will begin the report about my trips with a report about the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] Jakarta summit. Our strong presence in that conference was due to the session being held at a sensitive time, and there were some doubts regarding the NAM's existence. The NAM was founded by a number of independent countries, when the East and the West, or capitalism and communism, had created two opposing economic and military blocs. The NAM was independent of either bloc. Of course, nonaligned is not a correct phrase. What was meant was independence and not bowing to either bloc, which has been translated as nonaligned.

Today, one side of the cold war has been defeated, and the other side is thinking of extending its power and ensuring absolute domination; therefore, important issues needed to be discussed at the NAM conference. We therefore had a strong presence at the conference. We had certain objectives and views. I believe we achieved all of them; at the least, we achieved what was realistically expected. Of course, if conditions were different, our issues could have been different. We must consider the current conditions.

The first problem we had was that the presidency of the conference, the NAM president, was Yugoslavia. Well, today the Serbs consider themselves the heirs of the former Yugoslavia. According to tradition, during each conference, the former president chairs the session to start with; the president makes a speech and passes responsibility to the next president. During the current conditions this was unacceptable.

Islamic and revolutionary nations could not sit still at a NAM meeting under the presidency of an aggressive, bullying, and oppressive country. After our pretalk negotiations, this problem was solved, thank God. It was decided that the presidency would be transferred before the conference started. This was successfully completed, which, of course, was originated in Tehran and ended in Jakarta.

The other problem we had was Serbia itself, which wanted to keep its seat in the NAM as Yugoslavia. There were many supporting this, since this is yet to be discussed in the UN Security Council and General Assembly. Therefore, this was a serious problem. The only government that opposed Serbia's membership as the representative of former Yugoslavia was Iran. We said: This does not tally with reality. The Serbs' oppression aside, since Yugoslavia has fallen apart.... [pauses] Of course, this was discussed as a conference document during the negotiations there, and it led to a wave in both the conference and the world, which is important for the later stages.

Among our goals were to pay attention to the substance of agreements and the methods of discussions. We believe that we managed to direct the path of the discussions at the NAM summit in a satisfactory manner, both through discussions we held beforehand with some influential personalities and also through our speech, in which we raised the principle issues of our world today. [passage omitted]

The issue of UN democratization is one that many countries are afraid of raising. It was necessary for someone to raise the issue so that others can also speak about the subject. No country is satisfied with the UN, which belongs to the entire world but is controlled today by a number of powerful countries—perhaps only by one powerful country of the world, the United States. As a member of a family, as a member of a team, no country would like its fate to be left to a number of bullying members, so that they make decisions and dictate to them. [passage omitted]

When we raised the issue it was warmly welcomed by other members, and during our later meetings they thanked us. It was also noted in the final document that efforts should be made to release the UN from such dictatorship and domination by the bullying world powers. I am not saying that this can be achieved easily, but it is very valuable groundwork that such a document has been prepared at a session in which 106 world countries—which comprise the UN's decisive majority, were present.

Perhaps, for example, it was necessary to issue a warning to those who enjoy the right of veto, which in fact is a disgraceful development in the UN and the Security Council. What does the right of veto mean? It means that a country has been given the right to ignore and undermine all other votes and to say no, which is the reality of veto now. An issue would be approved at the Security Council, and if five countries in the entire world say no, it is no. They are the United States, Britain, France, Russia now, replacing the Soviet Union, and China has also been accepted. What does that mean? It means that a Security Council has been set up by the 180 countries

of the world; they raise an issue and achieve some result, then all members agree on it, apart from one of those five countries, who says: No, I do not accept. That means all negotiations, all discussion and logic are destroyed by a word no. Such an issue is not even acceptable in the jungle. It is not acceptable in any underdeveloped society, that one person can say no and destroy the decision of a council.

We strongly raised that issue, which is a filthy development, a proof of degrading reason, degrading logic, and, God be praised, it bore fruit, too. But the decision about that issue could not have been made there; it should be made in other places at a later stage. But it was very important to raise that issue.

There was the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which is a blot on present-day human society. It is a dirty business happening in the world today. The world will never be able to live down the shame that many eyes watched while these crimes were being committed. But no strong hand came forward to stop the injustice. [passage omitted]

It is disgraceful that an injustice is being committed in the world and some people are capable of stopping it with one word—they really could—but they prefer not to, for reasons known to them. They would not like to see an Islamic country in the Balkans. They say it is the gateway to Europe. Should the people who have lived there for hundreds of years not be there? What sort of thinking is that in the world today?

We invested a great deal on this issue at the NAM session. The document they prepared about Bosnia-Hercegovina was weak. We had a session that was very long; it lasted until the early hours. The presidium member countries were there, about 22 countries, and we who are members, as one of the deputies. Everybody spoke. Most of them spoke. We pressed until a stronger document was prepared. Of course, it is still not enough in our opinion, but thanks to the efforts it was made much better. A number of other Islamic countries helped us in the discussion. But one thing bothers me; that is, dozens of Islamic, nonaligned, and so-called independent countries were there. But the decision made was not in proportion to the crime. But it was much better than what they planned at the start. [passage omitted]

It was really a beautiful scene in the Pakistani Parliament, their two houses holding a joint session. There were worries due to their own domestic tensions between the majority and the minority. They were arguing because the groups opposed to the government wanted also to welcome the Iranian guests, but the government would not agree to it. The majority deputies were arguing that according to parliamentary tradition nobody other than the speaker was allowed to make a speech at a joint session. In the end, the opposition did not manage to take the floor. [passage omitted]

There are arguments between the Sahabeh group and the Shiites that you have heard about from afar. They kill each other and are engaged in an intense battle of words. Yet, when we made our points known, the Sahabah group, which originally was opposed to our presence there, later in a formal statement confirmed them. In reality, almost all the Pakistani media from their press to their radio and television were captured by debates that we raised or topics to do with the Islamic revolution.

I believe all the views, objectives, and aspirations—which must be common to all revolutionary Muslims—could be seen in the Pakistani media during the two or three days of our stay. [passage omitted]

Their educators and the literati, who had come to see us, were quite serious about the Persian language. They seriously wanted me to tell my Pakistani host to allow the Persian language to expand further in that country, both due to the Iranian Islamic revolution and due to the fact that 100 years ago their administration was in Persian. And their historic pride is in Persian; they wanted to strengthen their ties.

Our friends in the Pakistani Government were very helpful. In drawing up agreements and cooperation pacts we arrived at very good points. [passage omitted]

In China, we did not have much time, but we agreed on everything that we wanted to. One of these agreements made the United States and many of the other domineering powers very angry. This is the agreement on constructing a nuclear power plant for peaceful purposes. This is exactly what we had before; we even paid for it, but they did not want to give it to us. But the Chinese Government signed the agreement with us, and it filmed and publicized the signing ceremony on purpose so as to say: We are serious and honest concerning this matter. This is one of the signs of our improving cooperation with that country.

They accompanied us to one of the Islamic towns of that country, Khashgar. [passage omitted] The love that we saw there and the huge crowds who walked to the mosques.... [pauses] They like the Islamic Republic of Iran and their Iranian guests. The scenes were beautiful. [passage omitted]

When we talked of exporting the revolution, this is what we meant: We never wanted to occupy one inch of anyone's territory. We wanted other people to understand what we have. [passage omitted]

One other point that may be worth mentioning from the economic point of view: There are some things that we have in common with the three countries we visited. All three are in the Third World, and they are developing countries. They are now going through the process of building their infrastructure. They are also carrying out a policy of economic adjustment [ta'dil]. They are like us. A comparison between us and them would be significant, between our situation, our lives, and theirs. One point should be made: We had serious difficulties due to the war. We suffered $1 trillion in war damage, and they did not. On the other hand, as an advantage, we are richer

from the point of view of material resources. We have a large country and a small population in relation to them. China has a population exceeding 1 billion. Indonesia has 180 million and Pakistan 114 million. So, our resources are greater than theirs. Of course, they have better natural conditions for agriculture in terms of weather and water resources. [passage omitted]

We made a comparison in terms of revenue and expenditure. There is really a vast difference between the conditions in Iran and in those countries, even from the point of view of our less well-off classes. The income of a worker there, in all three countries, is less than $50 per month. There are some who earn $30 and some who earn $60, skilled workers, but the average is $40 or $50. I am giving you the figure in dollars so that you can have an idea of what it means. If I told you the figure in local currencies, it would not mean anything to you. And nearly all their goods, except for one or two things, are more expensive than ours, their water, electricity, transport, clothes. This does not apply to housing in China, but in the other two countries, housing is also more expensive. The same applies to fuel. [passage omitted].

In any case, the people of those countries have accepted that their countries are undergoing reconstruction, and they are making good progress. All three countries are building rapidly. Their industries, roads, agriculture and so on are expanding. All three have been successful. What I want to say is that, based on this comparison, it should become clear to us that we must put a difficult period of reconstruction behind us to become a real power in the Third World, the region, and the world. We must (?put up) with a certain amount, much less than other countries. We must compare ourselves with similar countries, not with countries that are in a completely different situation.

The path we have chosen will, God willing, lead to our becoming a strong country from the material and spiritual points of view, thanks to our eager, revolutionary people. We should persist in this path until we reach our desired aims. [passage omitted]

Remarks on Abu Musa in Second Sermon

LD1809173392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1115 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Second Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Tehran on 18 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

In this sermon I will quickly tell you about, in list form, current affairs. [passage omitted]

We have Defense Week, which we look forward to. This is very valuable for our nation, all the strugglers, those who sacrifice themselves, and for our Armed Forces. It is an unforgettable and inspiring crisis; it is a unique period in Iran's history. There has never been such a bright era in our history: eight years of defense undertaken innocently and alone against all the satans of the world, from the reactionaries to the West's and East's arrogance, and Zionism. We achieved so much that even the most hostile of our enemies acknowledged the fact in the past two or three years. We fought on our own and turned out the enemies from our soil. We struck severe blows and foiled all plots, one after the other. In the last moments of the war—after accepting the resolution with our action in the face of Iraq's Ba'thists' hostility when Iraq was not going to accept the resolution and recognize the cease-fire, which were the last pages of the thick tomb of the war—we proved that we could move toward peace with power and from a strong position.

When the American, British, and Russian forces then were fighting us alongside the Ba'thists in the south and west, we offered those last, proud scenes of the war. Then, during the peace talks with our officials' and our people's political development and maturity it became clear for the world that we fought alone and skillfully without the political assistance from others. We succeeded in proving our case, the enemy's blame, and registering our righteousness in history, something that the loudspeakers of world arrogance were denying for eight, nay, ten years, describing us as belligerent. We truly had worthy achievements that must be described once again to the people during holy Defense Week so that the people realize what they have done. [passage omitted] The poet is saying that when people see beautiful jars of oil on an oil merchant's shelves, they enjoy the view but do not realize what has been done to the grains under the millstone for the products to be at their disposal.

Those coming after us do not know what you have done; they do not know what the Basiji forces have done, how the Armed Forces fought, and how the people resisted under the bombardments and missile attacks, not bending for a moment. Our children also forget. Those things do not remain in the memories of school children if we do not talk about them. [passage omitted]

Our main topic relates to Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek, as well as the problems of the region. I wrote about these issues in my Arabic sermon, which I will deliver for our Arab brothers and sisters. I will utter a few words for you as well.

First of all, let us see why these events have been triggered. You may not know all the points precisely as they are. According to a previous agreement, it was decided that a number of people of al-Shariqah could live in Abu Musa, and they are there. They have a part of the island where they live; they operate a school and a hospital, and they go around living as others do. We are on the other side.

Lately, some seven or eight months ago we arrested a few individuals in the territorial waters of the island. They were armed and came there on armed boats. They could

provide no explanation why they went over there. They could be neither fishermen nor anything else. They were neither Iranians nor Arabs. At present one of them is still in prison; he is from the Netherlands. Now, why an armed Dutchman was around Abu Musa Island on an armed boat is something that must be explained. Seriously, this is a curious issue.

At that time we decided to bring the island under control, so we said that foreigners who come over there must let us know of their arrival in advance. Their identity must be known before they arrive. And we acted on that decision. Since then we have had no incidents.

Meanwhile, in some cases some individuals wanted to arrive there without our knowledge. Naturally, there were disputes between the officials at the island and those individuals. Sometimes the officials sent back an individual, which is something that can well happen. We informed the Gulf Cooperation Council member states of that policy. We told them that that was our policy, and we changed nothing else.

Even in Jakarta, where we visited, foreign ministers of some of these countries who were there came to see us. We asked them what was all that hubbub. We told them: Nothing has changed, so why do you make an issue of it?

Eventually, it was agreed that nothing had changed. They said that what they wanted was for their people to live in comfort and we told them: All right, we let them live in comfort. There and then I told them that I would send somebody to the island to investigate. If there were undue restrictions, we would see to removing them. We did send somebody, and they know about it.

Yet, suddenly we witness these meetings, declarations of support, condemnation, and so forth. In reality as far as we are concerned such things cannot be justified. The justifications we have seen are unacceptable; the justifications given so far put them to shame.

There are probable reasons of which we informed them, but they have not replied to us. Their answer is that they want their people to live in comfort. And we said that we agree to that. We even do our best in that direction.

Now we do not want at present to see confrontation in the region among the regional countries, which is not in anybody's interest. They must tell their own people why they created these disputes, why they let such propaganda blackmail to surface.

If we decide to judge based on conventional yardsticks, we must say that the foreign powers intend to mass their forces in vast numbers here. The Americans, the British, and others want to station forces here, and they need an excuse to do so, which is why they create such incidents. If they seek to justify the Iraqi situation, that issue may come to an end soon. They will need to find another long-term excuse. They must create a threat for the Persian Gulf countries so that they may come here pretending to protect them. And then they would say welcome. [as heard]

That may be one explanation that we may contemplate, or else one may say that the Arabs have been humiliated these days; therefore, they want to save face among their own nations by creating scenes where they can pose as heroes. They were humiliated in Iraq where a handful of planes humiliated a great Arab and Muslim country. They were humiliated in Libya where an Arab country is being bullied to hand over their citizens to be tried in the United States and Britain, not even in an International Court. They see they are helpless in front of Israel in Lebanon and Israel, and naturally they are humiliated. To make up for such humiliations being inflicted on them, they resort to making such noises in their own societies in an effort to tell their own people that they exist.

They see that they can do nothing against Israel. They were degraded and raised a brouhaha in their society just to save face in front of their people. This concerns a side which, as they have found out, is a noble country and not an adventurer. They think that in this way they may not come to any harm.

Or there is the issue of Palestine. They see that their compromise, with all its weaknesses and half-hearted promises, will be to no avail, that they were disgraced. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat told me in Jakarta: We are disappointed; they are not giving anything to the Palestinians, but they may give something to other countries.

They see that a number of countries started talking and dragged the Arab world behind them and got their approval. Then they achieved nothing, so they raised another issue as a distraction, so that if there is any treachery there they could cover it up with issues about Iran and other countries.

Or there is the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue. They dare not seriously cooperate with Bosnian Muslims. They are scared of their masters. The latter have ordered them to stop. They said: Do nothing; do not help. There is no justification for the fact that there are 1.2 billion Muslims in the world while a few Serbs are massacring Muslims. Like the incidents that occurred in Palestine. There were no strong Islamic countries in those days; but they are around today. Well, they created another issue here so that the people would not see the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue in the papers and say that a more important issue has arisen. The matter is simple to analyze for Westerners. Undoubtedly, any conflict between Islamic countries is to their advantage. They would do anything they could to keep that conflict going, and anything else takes second place. The Persian Gulf issue is not a small one. The issue of Iran is not a small one, either; therefore, they found a way of covering up their crimes in other parts of the world, which could clearly be a policy for Westerners. But our question was

addressed to those Arab gentlemen: What do you want? What will you gain from this adventure?

The possibilities that I mentioned could exist. There could be other things. Of course, our policy is not one of confrontation or creating mischief, neither is it giving excuses to the enemy but one of resistance, safeguarding our soil, and not yielding to degradation. [Crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

Thank you. I wish you success.

We have been tested and proved that we stand by what we say and that we are capable of it. The eight-year defense proved this to the most stupid people in the world. Our tongues are not tied either, so that they could cover up the truths by raising a raucous. We expose mischief makers and will explain to Arab nations what the mischief makers seek. Our arms are also long enough to stretch out the hand of friendship and cooperation to the region. We advise them not to pursue such matters, for they are not in our interests, theirs, and the region. If anybody would benefit, it would only be world-devouring and oil-devouring enemies. [passage omitted]

Charges 'Media Campaign'

NC1809114592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Tehran University Mosque—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God. Peace be upon God's prophet, his scion, and God's people.

In the past few days, sons of the Islamic nation heard reports about the broad, suspect media campaign concerning Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek. There is no justification for this campaign. Our nation's sons, like us, might be surprised by the reasons and objectives for this campaign. As a principal party in this issue, we have not received any answer on these. But there are some signs that the issue appears to be a new plot that is being planned by Islam's enemies, who want to split Islamic ranks.

Several months ago, on the shores of the island, the Islamic Republic's authorities arrested suspected armed men who were carrying foreign identification cards. They did not justify their illegal presence. We continued to monitor individual arrivals on the island to prevent any potentially worrying incidents. We informed the other party of this decision and asked it to inform the island's authorities beforehand if it wanted to bring foreign elements onto the island.

We drew the attention of some Gulf Cooperation Council member countries' officials to this issue, stressing that there were no other changes in our declared policy on these islands. We asked them about the reasons for recent actions and statements of condemnation and support. We have not received any convincing answer to these questions.

Events have given us an impression that the mighty forces of hegemony need to stir up these disputes and crises to expand their sphere of influence and confront the noble revolutionary Islam. The other objective might be to divert attention and to cover up the crimes of global blasphemy in Bosnia-Hercegovina or the capitulationist talks that are called the peace plan for Palestine or to lessen the effects of the consequences of the vile [word indistinct] actions in Iraq and Libya.

We hope that the decisionmakers in this suspicious issue, which aims only to split ranks, will reconsider and spare us, themselves, and Muslims' worries and problems, because these will only help our enemies.

We rely on God. God's peace and blessings be upon you. I take refuge in God from the condemned Satan. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Say: He is God, the one and only, God, the eternal, absolute; he begetteth not, nor is he begotten, and there is none like unto him. [Koranic verse] God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Syria's al-Shar' Arrives To Discuss Abu Musa

JN1809204992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in the Iranian capital this evening. He was met at Tehran International Airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and Syrian Ambassador to Iran Ahmad al-Hasan.

The foreign minister made a statement at Tehran Airport in which he announced that he was carrying a message from President Hafiz al- Asad to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing with relations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], concerning Abu Musa Island. The foreign minister added: I will hold talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Answering a question about the issue of Abu Musa Island, the foreign minister said: We believe that the cordial relations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates will enable both countries to solve this dispute through cordial and peaceful means. The message I am carrying from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stresses the need to solve this dispute through cordial means and in accordance with international law and agreements signed between Iran and the United Arab Emirates and also based on the mutual interests and good-neighborly relations.

The Syrian Arab side, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Iranian side, headed by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, held a session of talks this

evening. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is expected to meet with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' tomorrow morning, Saturday.

Meets With Velayati

NC1909075492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Immediately after arriving in Tehran last night, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met Foreign Minister Velayati and discussed bilateral relations and regional developments. Al-Shar' is carrying a message from the Syrian president to Hashemi-Rafsajani about the Abu Musa Island issue.

During his visit, al-Shar' lauded the policies of the Islamic Republic's leadership in the region and referred to the long-lasting relations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], saying: Both countries are expected to continue to preserve their good-neighborly relations and to solve the problem that has arisen with understanding and wisdom.

Velayati said: Iran's policy has always been based on the principle of good-neighborly relations with its neighbors. He said: Our policy on the disputed islands has not changed. Velayati added: We still believe that Iran and the UAE can overcome the problem that has emerged through understanding and goodneighborliness. Resorting to unfriendly paths will not help to solve the problem.

After his arrival in Tehran last night, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered a question from our correspondent, who asked: In view of the Islamic Republic's official statement that its position on Abu Musa has not changed, what is the basis for the recent position taken by the Arab League, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, and Syria? Al-Shar' said: We believe that neither Iran nor the UAE wishes the problem to continue, because in previous years, when the region faced extremely difficult conditions, these two countries kept on living in peace and understanding. He added: Iran's efforts to preserve stability, tranquillity, and security in the Persian Gulf assure us that the existing problem will be solved in some way. Hafiz al-Asad's message also stressed the need for a friendly solution to this dispute.

News agencies report that on Thursday, al-Asad received a message from UAE ruler Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1909104692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' shortly before noon today.

During the meeting al-Shar' delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad about the recent issue concerning the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. He also conveyed the Syrian president's warmest greetings to our country's president.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his thanks for President al-Asad's kind message. He stressed Iran's unalterable position on the disputed islands. He added: In our opinion, nothing new has taken place, and the islands' affairs are proceeding as before. We wish to have friendly and sincere relations with our neighbors, particularly with the Islamic and Persian Gulf countries. We believe that the uproar about this issue is coming from those who are seeking to prevent the development of relations among Islamic and regional countries.

Besharati: UAE Citizens Allowed Access

JN1909123192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at noon today. The minister delivered greetings and wishes from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also conveyed the president's message to the Iranian president on the issue concerning Abu Musa Island and the need to solve the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] cordially, based on common interests and good neighborly relations between the two friendly countries .

Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the Syrian delegation and asked that his greetings and love be delivered to President Hafiz al-Asad. He handed the Syrian delegation a letter in reply to the president's message.

The minister described the results of his visit to Tehran as positive, saying: We will continue this effort.

For his part, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati described the foreign minister's visit as a complete success, saying: Iran accepts Syria's mediation efforts in all its details. He said that Arab relations between Iran and the UAE will return to normal and the citizens of the UAE will be allowed access to Abu Musa Island in a normal fashion without a visa.

Dailies View Visit by al-Shar'

LD2009092992 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept 20, IRNA—Two Iranian morning dailies here Sunday editorialized on the recent U.S.-inspired propaganda war against Iran's sovereignty over the three Iranian Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek. The TEHRAN TIMES commented on the visit to Tehran of the Syrian foreign minister as a "mediator" and the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI warned the regional sheikhdoms to be vigilant against the U.S.-engineered plots in the region.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES referred to the Friday visit to Tehran of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' saying that he was here to seek "peaceful ways for settling the differences" between Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. "Iran would have preferred direct negotiations first with the al-Shariqah sheikhdom and then with the UAE."

Referring to al-Shar's visit as "surprising", the paper said "this time he has come to mediate between Iran and the UAE," adding "our Syrian friends are quite aware that having an impartial stance is the basic requirement in any diplomatic meditation."

It pointed to the Syrian officials stance at [word indistinct] meeting in Qatar and Arab League session in Egypt towards the issue and said they have stated "twice" that "the Iranian islands of Tunbs and Abu Musa belonged to the UAE and have referred to the Iranian efforts at maintaining security at the islands... as acts of aggression and occupation."

"It is in consideration of the above circumstances that the Syrian initiative for mediation looks surprising," said the paper. Pointing to Tehran's preference to have "direct negotiations" with the al-Shariqah officials and those of the UAE, it added "if they prefer to have the matter settled through a mediator, Tehran will have no objections provided the mediator is an impartial party, and not a country like Syria which has already taken sides in the affair."

The paper concluded by suggesting to the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials to point out in thier talks to the Syrian officials that "Iran accepts only unadulterated friendship."

Meanwhile, the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI referred to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's talks with al-Shar' where he had said "the ballyhoo on the islands has been created by those who are against promotion of the relations among the regional and Muslim countries."

"Washington wants to portray itself as the guardian of the Persian Gulf southern littoral states," said the paper. It added that it is not tolerable for the U.S. that the regional countries themselves design and carry out the "security arrangements" because this would strip Washington of the pretext to interfere in the region.

It urged the regional sheikhdoms to look at the issues more "broadly", distinguish their friends from their foes by "logical" yardsticks and not allow the "Satanic" powers to disturb the region and create renewed instablity.

The daily concluded by calling on the Persian Gulf littoral states to "revise" their recent attitutes and expressed hope that the Persian Gulf would witness a "friendly" cooperation among its neighborly countries towards further progress and development.

More Reaction to Persian Gulf Islands Dispute

President, Envoy to UAE Discuss Islands

LD1909170292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Hasan Aminian, Iran's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this afternoon. During the meeting, Aminian briefed the president about recent developments in the region and about matters relating to Iran's Persian Gulf islands.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, stressed the importance of the policy of good-neighborliness toward the regional countries and the Persian Gulf area, saying: From our point of view, nothing has changed, and we are determined to have good relations with all Persian Gulf countries based on good-neighborliness and Islamic principles. We believe that tension and insecurity are not in any way to the advantage of the region and the Persian Gulf area; efforts must be made to solve problems.

President Cited on 'Illogical Pretexts'

LD2009122492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani opened the eighth national seminar of Friday imams at Imam Khomeyni Mosque this morning.

Addressing the country's Friday imams, he explained the clergy's role and their grave responsibility for enlightening the masses, particularly the younger generation, at such a sensitive juncture. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for studying current and up-to-date subjects. He said: Nowadays, the world is referred to as a small village due to the availability of advanced and extensive communication methods. He stated: New ideas may emerge from any corner of the world. I, therefore, advise seminaries to strengthen their contacts with the world's scientific and religious centers, particularly with active seminaries of the Sunni brothers in various countries. He said: In order to grasp the real needs of the world of Islam, common Islamic issues should be given high priority, and engagement in minor issues that create discord should be shunned. The president added: There should be further contact, understanding, and coordination with Islamic thinkers and scholars throughout the world.

In another part of his speech the president referred to world arrogance's enmity and hostility toward according worldwide recognition to Islamic laws. He said: The enemies' uproar concerning the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and the fact that they are resorting to baseless and illogical pretexts that are aimed at creating discord among Islamic countries proves that the enemies

intend to make trouble for Iran; therefore, we should be vigilant in every way and maintain our preparedness to confront such conspiracies.

Concluding his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the country's Friday imams. He stated: One of the main duties of the honorable scholars and Friday imams and those who are Islam's effective voice is now, more than ever, to explain the sensitive issues related to the reconstruction and renovation period to the people, so that we can remove the problems of this period and be able to witness a free and proud Iran that is developed in all fields.

Rowhani: Government Respects 1971 Accord

LD1809213392 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday said of the recent row over the Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa that Iran was not after confrontation and mischief nor was it seeking enemies. "Nevertheless, we are seriously adhering to the policy of resistance and defending our land and will not give in to humiliation." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in a pre-sermon speech, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Hasan Rowhani referred to the recent conspiracies of the enemy in the Persian Gulf region. He said in order to maintain their presence in the Persian Gulf and to plunder petrodollars, the big Western powers need a pretext to create tension in the region. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention of aggression against any country but at the same time will not yield to any aggression," he said. "The Islamic Republic of Iran respects the agreement reached between Iran and al-Shariqah in 1971," the SNSC secretary reiterated.

"Any problem in the region can be solved through cooperation between Iran and al-Shariqah. However, if it is a conspiravy (hatched) against the territorial integrity of Iran, we will stand against foreign plots," he underlined.

Nateq-Nuri on U.S Creating 'Clamor'

LD2009124792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During today's open Majles session, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri condemned the world arrogance's mass media, describing their propaganda on Abu Musa Island as baseless. He said: Iran fully honors neighboring countries' territorial integrity and national sovereignty. At the same time, it does not have a shadow of a doubt about defending its own territorial integrity.

Nateq-Nuri referred to fanning the Abu Musa Island issue as another plot and trick of global arrogance and described America as the main propagator of this issue. He said: America intends to create a clamor to distract the world from its crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina, occupied Palestine, and other regions of the world and damage the security of the Persian Gulf.

Nateq-Nuri added: Our neighbors and regional shaykhs must note that the stability and security of the Persian Gulf is vital to all the countries of the region. All attempts to create tension and damage security must be confronted. Nateq-Nuri condemned any territorial claim of one country against another, saying: We believe that all the problems can be solved in a friendly way if there is good will. The countries of the region must be alert, so that alien hands and their greed for the resources of this region do not destroy the stability and calm of the region. [passage omitted]

Official on Abu Musa Development Plans

LD2009161992 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Musa, Hormuzgan Prov., Sept. 20, IRNA—Abu Musa will become one of the most beautiful islands of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future, thanks to the efforts underway by the executive officials, a local official said today.

Deputy governor general of the province Mohammad Derazgisu, speaking at a ceremony marking the new school year, thanked executive officials for the efforts towards developing the island.

The new academic year began at Abu Musa as Iran's national anthem was played during the ceremony. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani rang the bell for the new school year in Tehran Saturday.

Daily on 'Unprincipled' GCC Position

LD2009182292 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—The recent meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, (P)GCC, over Abu Musa Island brings to memory similar gatherings against Islamic Iran during the 8-year Iraqi war when heads of Persian Gulf littoral states use to express their full support for the aggressor Saddam Huseyn, said a Persian daily today.

"These regimes backed Saddam without considering the consequences of their actions, which eventually backfired, trapping them in the flames of their own seditions as was evident from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the resulting crisis in the Persian Gulf," said KAYHAN in a political commentary here today.

It said the recent stance of these countries over Abu Musa Island was undoubtedly "an unprincipled and hasty one" which reveals their incorrect and illogical understanding of the critical situation in the Persian Gulf.

"Apart from that we should look for the hands of global arrogance, particularly the U.S., which, if stability and tranquility is restored, would have no justification for its presence in the Persian Gulf," said the daily.

The United Arab Emirates' argument concerning Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek, it noted, has astonished political observers.

The article pointed out: "Was it not the same argument of historical right that made Saddam occupy Kuwait?

"Regional sheikhs should know that if the argument of historical right should serve as the basis for settling the issue, the map of the region will have to be redrawn to the utter detriment of these countries, with no sign of these small and newly-indepdendent states anywhere on the regional map."

West Said Taking Advantage of Issue

NC1909192592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In light of the atmosphere created by the Western media escalation of the issue involving the disputed islands, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani affirmed in his Friday sermon in Tehran yesterday that Iran does not wish to create problems and enemies. It concentrates on resistance, defending Iranian territory, and rejecting subservience. He said that the Islamic Republic will continue this policy with all seriousness. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the history of Abu Musa Island and the former agreement between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on this issue. He said: According to this agreement, a number of al-Shariqah citizens live on Abu Musa Island and enjoy the health, education, and other services provided there. He also said that measures to find out the identity of the people there are justified. Eight months ago, some people were arrested on or near the island who were neither Arab nor Iranian. One of them was a Dutch citizen.

Within the same framework, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran yesterday heading a ranking delegation and carrying a special message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said that during his visit he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati on the Abu Musa issue. The dispute between Iran and the UAE certainly does not appear impossible to solve in view of the ties of friendship between the two countries. The Syrian minister also confirmed this.

Through holding relaxed negotiations, the two countries are capable of reaching a logical solution to the disputed issues. The problem lies in the peculiar climate that prevails in the international and regional arena, and which, regrettably, reflects the presence of both hidden and visible fingers that seek to escalate the issue and create tension in this sensitive part of the world.

Escalating a limited difference in viewpoints between two neighboring countries linked through bonds of friendship and neighborliness serves the objective of justifying the presence of these huge Western forces in the region to give these countries, which are in fact bearing the expenses of this presence, the impression that this presence is necessary. At the same time, it also serves the objective of convincing the countries of the region of the necessity and importance of maintaining this presence.

Herein lies the West's real motive in creating this fabricated Western media campaign, which carries within its folds clear blackmail. Naturally, there is another objective global arrogance wishes to realize through focusing on the Abu Musa issue. This step, according to the scenario, could contribute toward pushing the peace process between the Arab countries and Israel forward. In addition, it creates a convincing pretext to keep the illegal American military presence in the Persian Gulf.

At any rate, the Iran of Islam has identified the covert parts of this game. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said honestly that disputes between Muslim countries provide the West with huge benefits and gains. These disputes facilitate the West's mission of creating a split at any point in our Islamic world. The Islamic Republic is exerting efforts to establish cordial relations and friendship with its neighboring countries, relations that are based on mutual respect. Our country repeatedly has affirmed this desire.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani summarized Iran's stand when he said: We are extending our hands with friendship and love to squeeze the hands of those countries which desire the same. We are seeking to establish relations of cooperation with these countries. Raising such issues is not in anyone's interest. The first and foremost beneficiary from such measures is global arrogance.

Four Kurdish Militants Assassinated in Berlin

DPK Statement Condemns Assassination

NC1909084492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Statement by the Central Committee Secretariat of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran, DPK, on 18 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear compatriots, combatant people of Kordestan, respectable comrades: The DPK [Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran] Central Committee Secretariat announces with great regret that a report was received this morning, saying that last night the criminal hand of the officials of the inhuman clerical regime went to work again. A terrorist operation in Berlin martyred combatant and dear comrade DPK Secretary General Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, sympathizing and combatant comrade Fattah 'Abdoli, member of the Central Committee and the party's representative in Europe, worthy party

member Homayun Ardalan, and a devoted friend of the DPK, Comrade Nuri Dehkordi alias Hoseyn Ahmadi.

For further information about this hideous crime by the reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic, please heed the Central Committee communique and statements.

Greetings to the pure souls of these martyrs and of all the martyrs in the path of freedom. Shame and disgrace on the terrorist and terrorist-nurturing clerical regime.

[Signed] The DPK Secretariat
[Date] 27 Shahrivar 1371 [18 September 1992]

Foreign Ministry Denies Involvement

LD2009081192 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman here Saturday categorically denied accusations levelled against the Islamic Republic alleging that Iran was involved in the last week killing of four Iranian Kurdish leaders in Berlin.

The spokesman condemned the assassinations and said "the incident has taken place in continuation of the activities carried out against Iran in the past few months and the propaganda on human rights (violations)."

Last Friday, Secretary General of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Iran Sadeq Sharafkandi and three other party leaders were assassinated by yet unidentified gunmen who managed to escape.

"Such measures are aimed at undermining the positive and fruitful activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and to strain the traditional relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European countries," he underlined.

The spokesman noted that the Kurdish opposition groups, regretting their past activities, have established contacts with Iran for cooperation. He added that the initial reports on the incident speak of intergroup fighting and differences.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to fully cooperate with the German Government to clarify the matter," the spokesman said.

Clandestine Eulogizes Sharafkandi

NC2009103692 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Statement by the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran (DPK) Central Committee dated 18 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Respectable people of Iran; combatant people of Kordestan; members, supporters, and friends of the DPK: It is with deep sorrow that we announce that at 2300 on Thursday, 17 September 1992, the combatant and brave comrade and the worthy child of the respectable Kurdish masses, Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, secretary general of the DPK; together with combatant and dear Comrade Fatah 'Abdoli, member of the Central Committee and the party's representative in Europe; and the worthy member of our party, Comrade Homayun Ardalan, were the victims of an attack by the terrorists of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Berlin, Germany, and were martyred.

Combatant comrade Sadeq Sharafkandi, who was known by the party comrades as Kaj Sa'id, went to Germany a few days before at the head of a party delegation to participate in the Socialist International Congress. After the conclusion of the Congress, he remained in Germany to hold talks with a number of Iranian opposition members.

At the time of the incident, Kaj Sa'id and his comrades, together with some members of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq—Majority; one representative of the Iranian national republicans; and a member of the broad front of the democratic left gathered in a restaurant where they were attacked and assassinated by three terrorists of the clerical regime.

During the savage attack by the murderers of Iran, comrade Nuri Dehkordi, a member of the wide front of the democratic left who was one of the DPK's old friends, was shot and martyred. Another person named 'Aziz Ghaffari was seriously wounded.

Even though at the time this statement was being issued the German police had not yet published clear information about the terrorists; it is nevertheless clear to us, to the combatants of the Iranian opposition, and to all those who do not wish to escape from realities that this inhuman crime was engineered by the Iranian regime and perpetrated by its mercenaries.

Martyr Dr. Sa'id, whose memory will be everlasting, was born in 1316 [1937] in (Taragheh) village in Bukan. He went to elementary and intermediate school in Bukan and in Mahabad and in Tabriz for his senior year in high school.

In 1959 he received a degree in chemistry from the Higher Teachers College in Tehran, and from that date until 1965 he worked as a chemistry teacher in Orumiyeh and Mahabad. In 1972, after receiving a scholarship from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, he went to France where he received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from University Number Six in Paris. He returned to Tehran in 1976 and worked as an assistant teacher at the Tehran Teacher's Training College.

The political activities of Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi in the DPK dated back to 1973, when he was studying for his Ph.D. in Paris. In that year, he became acquainted with our party's martyred leader, the great Dr. Qasemlu in

Paris, and with the knowledge that he acquired about the political policy of the DPK, he asked for membership in the party.

After returning to Iran, he acted as a liaison between martyrd Dr. Qasemlu, who was abroad, and a number of veteran combatants of the party at home. Because of his worthiness and knowledge, he rapidly rose within the party's ranks. In 1978 he was appointed adviser to the Central Committee and was elected at the party's Fourth Congress in the same year as member of the Central Committee and undertook the responsibility of the party committee in Tehran.

In the summer of 1980 he returned to Kordestan to offer his full-time services and was elected as a member of the party's Political Bureau during the Central Committee Plenum. From that date onward, he was elected as a member of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau at all the party congresses.

In 1986, he was appointed deputy secretary general and continued to serve his party and people until the martyrdom of the everlasting Dr. Qasemlu. During the fall 1989 plenum he was unanimously elected by the Central Committee as the party secretary general and was reassigned to this post after the Ninth Congress, too.

Martyr Kaj Sa'id was an alert, brave, and faithful person and a worthy, competent, and tireless combatant. He was truly the worthy successor of a great leader and was undoubtedly among the political leaders who were truly a source of pride and hope for the Kurdish people. It was undoubtedly these outstanding characteristics that made the Islamic Republic of Iran hate him and hatch a plot for his assassination, which it unfortunately succeeded in doing.

O respectable people of Kordestan and strugglers of the party of Qazi, Qasemlu, and Sharafkandi: There is no doubt that the demise of our leader Dr. Sa'id is a great loss and sorrowful blow inflicted on the body of the freedom-seeking movement of the Kurdish people and of the DPK. But rest assured that, just as after the martyrdom of the everlasting Dr. Qasemlu the banner of this struggle was not put down and the demise of Qasemlu did not stop the party's struggle, with the martyrdom of Dr. Sa'id, too, the banner of this everlasting martyr will remain hoisted until we achieve victory.

It is the duty of you, the party combatants and the respectable children of the Kurdish people, to rally around the party's banner and to continue the aspirations of our martyrs and not allow a vaccuum to be created by the demise of Dr. Sharafkandi in the DPK and in the Kurdish movement. The greatest reward and respect to this everlasting martyr and his martyred comrades is to persevere in our activities through unity and concordance and keep the banner of our aspirations high.

The Central Committee expresses its heartfelt sorrow over the demise of this alert and worthy leader and extends its condolences to the family and relatives of the martyred leader, to his friends, and to all the members, supporters, and friends of the party, and to the masses in Kordestan and throughout Iran. Also, the Central Committee seizes this occasion to renew its allegiance to the pure blood shed by these martyrs and to the people of Kordestan and of all of Iran, and promises to continue the prideful path charted by Qazi, Qasemlu, and Sharafkandi until the fulfillment of the holy aspirations of the martyrs.

We expect the Kurdish masses in all parts of Kordestan, the freedom-lovers throughout Iran, and all the patriotic Iranian and Kordestani parties and organizations to continue, as always—and even more than before—their support for the legitimate struggles by our party and to express their aversion on this crime by the clerical regime in every way they can and to further disgrace this regime among the world's public opinion.

We call on freedom-seekers throughout the world, on humanitarian organizations and forums, and on the supporters of justice throughout the world to put pressure on the German Government so that it will identify the perpetrators of this inhuman plot, hand them over to justice, and put these elements and the regime that assigned them this duty to trial in the living conscience of mankind.

Let us all join hands and not allow the blood shed by the Berlin martyrs, like the blood that was shed by the Vienna martyrs, [reference to 1989 assassination of Qasemlu in Vienna] to be sacrificed for the economic and commercial interests of some people. In this regard, we ask for help from all the well-wishers in the world in the hopes that they will help us.

It should also be noted that until the formation of the Central Committee plenum and elections for a secretary general, combatant Comrade Mostafa Hejri will be acting as successor to the secretary general and will be carying out all the secretary general's duties.

Thousands of greetings to the pure soul of martyred leader Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, of comrade Fatah 'Abdoli, of comrade Homayun Ardalan, of comrade Nuri Dehkordi, and of all the martyrs in the path of freedom. Death, destruction, and disgrace on the inhuman regime of the Islamic Republic. Long live the freedom-seeking movement of the Kurdish people and its holy aspirations.

[Signed] The DPK Central Committee.
[Dated] 27 Shahrivar 1371 [18 September 1992].

Sharafkandi Interviewed on DPK Activities

NC2009091592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 12 Sep 92

[First of two installments of a report on an interview with Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Sharafkandi, alias Dr. Sa'id, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kordestan

of Iran, DPK, carried on Radio France Internationale's, RFI, Persian-language programs on 6 through 8 September]

[Text] After introducing Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Sharafkandi to listeners, RFI interviewer Javadi said: I thank you, DPK [Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran] leader Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Sharafkandi, for accepting our invitation and attending this interview with the Persian program of RFI.

DPK Secretary General combatant Comrade Dr. Sa'id replied: I thank you very much for granting me this opportunity to meet you and to speak briefly about the DPK and our activities.

The RFI interviewer asked: Mr. Sharafkandi, looking at the attempt that ended the life of the late DPK leader Dr. Qasemlu [assassinated in Austria in July 1989], do you have any fresh information on the identity of the assassins and on the motive behind the assassination?

Combatant Comrade Dr. Sa'id answered: There is nothing we don't know about Dr. Qasemlu's assassination. The assassins were the Iranian Government's representatives, who had been officially presented as such in talks on DPK demands. These two assassins met and talked with Dr. Qasemlu once before, and they assassinated him on the second meeting, which is very clear. We have no doubts about this, but if some doubts have now emerged, it is due to some diplomatic relations between the Austrian Government and the Iranian Government and due to some specific interests—especially economic and political. These have complicated the issue and have apparently overshadowed it.

The RFI interviewer asked combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id: What could be the motives behind the action by the engineers of this assassination, because, certainly, the DPK's struggles would not stop with the demise of its leader, however valuable he was? Combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id replied: This question should be put to the officials of today's Iranian regime. In our opinion, Dr. Qasemlu's assassination was neither an isolated issue nor an isolated decision but a link in the general chain of regime acts. Dr. Qasemlu's assassination followed the extensive massacres of political prisoners after the cease-fire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Apparently—and we definitely believe it—after the war, the Iranian regime also wanted to have peace of mind as far as the Iranian opposition was concerned. It wanted to firmly suppress domestic resistance, so it started to massacre political prisoners at home—about which everyone knows—and to annihilate its important political opponents abroad, starting with Dr. Qasemlu and continuing with Dr. Kazem Rajavi and, recently, with Dr. Bakhtiar. All these formed a series of efforts to gain peace of mind that there was nothing the Iranian opposition could do.

To your question about whether the resistance and struggle by the people of Kordestan will end, the answer is no. But this was the reasoning by the officials of the current Iranian regime.

The RFI interviewer asked combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id: As one of the outstanding opposition leaders, do you too feel a threat? Comrade Dr. Sa'id answered: Definitely. The Iranian regime has shown that it practices persecution against its political opponents, even those who may have no record of active struggles but who simply think differently and kills them, at home and abroad.

RFI asked: What is the DPK mission? Sa'id said: The DPK mission is summed up in its major, unalterable slogan of the past 47 years: Democracy for Iran and autonomy for Iranian Kordestan. Democracy for Iran means that the DPK, as the political representative of the people in Iranian Kordestan, wants a democratic rule to be established in Iran. Once this democratic rule is established, then, naturally, within this general democracy in Iran, the completely democratic requests of the people of Kordestan will be fulfilled. In our opinion, autonomy for Kordestan is a branch of a general democracy—the implementation of general democracy in Kordestan, considering the demands of the other people in Kordestan. This will be a type of autonomy.

The RFI interviewer asked: Autonomy to what extent? I know this is an extremely technical and legal issue, but can you briefly explain its framework? Combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id answered: Our party believes that in Kordestan's autonomy, there are some authorities and activities that should naturally be in the hands of the central government. These include the army, because the country needs a united army to safeguard its borders. A country needs a common language that will be spoken throughout the country and in Iran. This will be Persian. Long-term economic programs should also be in the hands of the central government, which will implement them by considering the special characteristics of the various areas. These are among the central government's authorities.

Foreign and diplomatic relations should be in the hands of the central government, not local. Other activities will be local affairs, implemented by the Kordestan people and by special councils and assemblies that they designate. Apart from the army, foreign relations, basic economic programs, the central bank, financial affairs, the general financial policy, and the common language for all the people throughout Iran, which will be in central government hands, other affairs should be carried out by the people of Kordestan.

The RFI interviewer asked: You have the answer to my next question and you referred to it in your remarks, but, since it is a sensitive issue, especially for the Iranians, whose sentiments on Kordestan and any other part of Iran can be described as fanatical, I must ask you, to place more emphasis on the question, do you support Iran's integrity?

Combatant Comrade Dr. Sa'id said: We, the Iranian Kurds, are hurt when we hear such remarks and questions, because we consider ourselves no less Iranian than

any other Iranian and, by comparison, we consider ourselves to be more Iranian. Truly, we are. Such issues do not apply to us; we consider such remarks, if not an insult, to be very unkind.

The RFI interviewer asked: How are relations between the DPK and Kurdish parties in countries neighboring Iran, especially relations with the Iraqi Kurds?

In answer, comrade Dr. Sa'id said: The DPK's interests are within Iranian frameworks. If you will allow me, I would like to reemphasize that our problem is Iran's problem. The only thing that can be said is that Iran comprises various nationalities, among which the Fars nationality forms the majority. We believe that apart from the Fars, there are others, including us, the Kurds, in Iran. That is the issue. Based on this principle and within this framework, we naturally have relations with the various political parties of the other parts of Kurdistan in Iraq and Turkey. Based on the principle of nonintervention in each other's domestic affairs, each one of the parties must decide its own affairs by considering the special conditions in its own country. So we have relations with all the political parties in Iraq and Turkey apart from one or two. I can name the PKK in Turkey's Kurdistan. Our relations with all the other parties are extremely friendly and are based on the principle of exchanging views and friendship without intervening in each other's domestic affairs, political problems, or decisionmaking.

RFI interviewer Javadi asked: Can this nonintervention in each other's affairs go as far as to mean the existence, in theory, of five different regimes in a Kurdistan that is divided among five countries? Does the DPK not wish to see a united Kurdistan?

Combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id said: The DPK has naturally compiled its own plans and objectives by considering the requests and feelings of the people of Kordestan—autonomy within a democratic Iran. This is what Iranian Kordestan wants, but the problems of the other Kurdistans are different in view of the historic and cultural conditions that exist in each one of the Kurdistans outside Iran. They have their own problems and their own historic and cultural characteristics and the solutions they find to their problems are different from the solutions we find to ours. I can only speak for the people of Iranian Kordestan and for the DPK, almost the only active party that the people of Kordestan, in general, accept, and to say that we do not want anything but autonomy within a democratic Iran; this is the only request of the Iranian Kurds.

Majles Approves Single Islamic Law on Israel

LD2009130692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] We draw your attention to our correspondent's report from the Majles on today's approvals:

[Correspondent] In its open session today, the Majles gave a majority vote to the bill approving a single Islamic law [tasvib-e qanun-e vahed-e-ye eslami] on banning Israel.

According to the bill, in continuation of the decisive stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to the Zionist regime and the continuation of this policy in a comprehensive and all- encompassing way, approval is given to the text of the single Islamic law, approved during the fifth session of the heads of the member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization, concerning a total ban on the regime occupying Jerusalem and severing commercial and economic ties of every kind between the member countries of that organization and the Zionist regime. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Washington Peace Talks

LD1809212992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Washington peace talks, announced that his talks with the Zionist negotiating team has made no progress and is on the verge of complete deadlock. Further, he demanded the governments of America and Russia, as the founders of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, to intervene to prevent failure of negotiations.

The purpose of the Syrian negotiating team, with the intervention of America and Syria, was apparently that countries put pressure on the Zionist regime to show more flexibility. [sentence as heard] But the fact as to whether such expectation can be faced with a positive response or not is something that there is not a much too clear prospect for it to occur. [sentence as heard] For even if America urges Israel to prevent complete failure of peace talks due to its negative impact on the votes in the American presidential elections to the detriment of Bush, it is not clear whether the government of Yitzhaq Shamir will be in a situation to deal with such a request. From Israel's point of view, peace talks have not been organized with the aim to give any concession to Arab parties.

As usual, America and Israel reached agreement in principle on these issues in advance. When the main goal is dead, no concession should be made to Arabs. Arab delegations' expectation is to extent faced with euphoria. [sentence as heard] Continuation of talks with Israel refusing to show slightest flexibility means that America and Israel have got closer to their goals and no longer making of special concessions is felt to be necessary.

The problem with Arab negotiating teams is that they do not consider all the facts in relation with one another. This is true that the Zionists have made hints as to transferring sovereignty of parts of Golan Heights to

Syria but have never said anything about the putting an end to the occupation of Arab lands captured in the 1967 war.

If the Syrian delegation has taken ambiguous hints of the Zionists to mean their preparedness for putting an end to the occupation of Golan Heights, one has to say that they are badly mistaken. What is essential to America and Israel is the strategic security for the Zionists and the Golan Heights is considered as part of this security. Therefore, it is too unlikely that Golan may be fully returned to Syria. Of course they may consider some militarily insignificant tiny part of Golan regions for transferring it to Syria, yet to the extent that the Syrian government can find an excuse for justifying its stance. But complete transfer of all the occupied lands will remain something out of question.

In relation with the Palestinian delegation this situation is even worse. The gap between expectations, which have been shared among the Palestinians about the issue of autonomy with what America and Israel have in mind is far more to be able in principle to talk about progress. These Arab delegations repeatedly reiterate that the Israeli side does not have the necessary powers for discussion on the main issue and it cannot change the existing realities.

The issue is not that Israeli delegations have or have no powers; rather the issue is that predetermined goals of talks which is totally and basically inconsistent with what Arabs expect. America and Israel want normalization of relations between Arabs and Israel; establishment of political relations; and opening of Israeli embassies in Arab states as well as lifting of economic embargoes. They argue and discuss on the same issues in their parleys while Arabs think that the occupied areas will return to them and the Palestinians will gain autonomy. Therefore, it is evident that if Arab delegations fail to head joint American-Israeli demands talks will fail. The two sides view peace from two angles, and, regarding, this reality, it has already been clear and evident that peace talks will bear nothing for Arabs but failure and defeat.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Afghan Fighting

LD1909212792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Following the announcement of attacks by Sayyaf's forces [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] on residential areas of Kabul and the killing of the city's innocent people, the Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed deep regret about that unprincipled behavior and expressed the hope that the cease-fire established after the bloody clashes in Kabul will be maintained and that all the groups will resolve whatever differences they have through negotiations and understanding.

Commentary Views Situation in Afghanistan

LD2009153692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary: "New Battles in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The battle that began in Kabul in the last few days between the forces of the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami—led by Sayyaf—have once again unsettled the situation in that city. As a result of the attacks by the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami on residential areas in Kabul, several innocent citizens of that city lost their lives.

A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry, strongly regretting this unprincipled action by Sayyaf's forces, expressed the hope that the cease-fire established after Kabul's bloody clashes will continue and all the forces will resolve any disagreement through negotiation and understanding.

The recent unrest in Kabul occurred at a time when an official of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami announced that the leaders of that party and Afghan Interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani have come to a six- point agreement on ending the conflict and differences between them. The important points of the agreement are the departure of Uzbek guerrillas from Kabul; an end to the presence of communists in the government; the formation of a committee comprising two members of each of the Afghan parties; and the release of the Hezb-e Eslami captives in Kabul. Mojahedin leaders have not expressed any opinion on this so far, but the interim Afghan Government, which still has about a month to run, has apparently come to the conclusion that the departure of the Uzbek militia led by General Dostam can bring back peace to the city.

According to a former agreement, the withdrawal of the military—even the Hezb-e Eslami forces—from some sectors of Kabul under the supervision of the Nangarhar peace delegation has been going on for some time. According to the Islamic Afghan news agency, the evacuation operations of the two sides are being carried out without any resistance and on the basis of the peace and cease-fire agreement. Thus, one of the main demands of the Hekmatyar's party—that is, the withdrawal of the Uzbek forces from Kabul—has been attended to. It was on this pretext that Hezb-e Eslami attacked Kabul with missiles and artillery many times, causing the death of many of that city's defenseless people.

Many experts in Afghan affairs believe that despite the recent agreement on government issues between the mojahedin leaders and the interim government there is still a long way to go before stability and tranquillity are established in Afghanistan. Recent battles between the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami and Sayyaf's Hezb-e Ettehad-e

Eslami and the latter's action in bombarding Kabul's residential areas are considered to be clear evidence for that belief.

It must be noted that disagreement between jihadi forces is too strong for a speedy solution to the existing problems of that country to be expected by achieving an agreement among the groups. Past experience has shown that the slightest disharmony in deciding a stance or ignoring the national and political rights of various ethnic groups and minorities have created the ground for severe conflict and confrontation. Therefore, political observers believe that the consolidation of unbiased political power and an all- embracing Islamic and national reconciliation is the proper solution which will guide war-stricken Afghanistan towards relative peace and tranquillity.

Dailies Assail Saudi Arabia's OPEC Policies

LD1909091792 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Two Iranian papers Saturday said that the OPEC would have little influence over oil prices with Saudi Arabia in the midst and considered Ecuador's decision to leave OPEC as a serious warning for the entire organisation.

The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAl referred to the aftermaths of the Persian Gulf war and the stationing of allied forces led by the U.S. in the Saudi-Kuwait region saying that since then "the U.S. for all practical purposes became a member of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)."

The daily considered disputes over production and price "between Iran and Saudi Arabia and in fact between all other OPEC oil producing countries and Saudi Arabia" as futile saying "the Saudis are not actually in control of their oil."

Describing OPEC as a "dead" cartel as a price and production determining body, it said the organisation is doomed as long as Saudi Arabia was around.

"OPEC oil producers will have little influence in the foreseeable future over the price of their precious and nonrenewable oil with Saudi Arabia in their midst. Unless somehow they restructure their organisation or reduce their economoic dependence on it," stressed the daily.

Another English daily, TEHRAN TIMES said that Saudi Arabia "acted as protector of the Western industrial countries, and prevented OPEC from lifting the oil price to dlrs. 21 per barrel, although all circumstances favoured such a rise in the oil prices."

Turning to the declining value of the dollar, the daily stressed that even higher prices would not mean an increase in the income of the producing countries.

"Thus it is not clear how Saudi Arabia and its allies in OPEC can justify their attempt to turn the circumstances favouring the oil producers into a situation which resulted in a clear advantage for the Western industrialised nations."

Saudi's move was not surprising with regards to its previous services to oil cartels and industrialised countries, the paper said. It said that Ecuador's decision to walk out of OPEC was "a serious warning for the entire OPEC, and also the first sign that the OPEC members are reaching the limit of tolerance of the Saudi Arabia's imposed policies on the other OPEC members."

The paper touched on the economic difficulties of the oil producing countries and stressed "they have a right to try to sell their products at a fair price."

President Remarks on Value of Education

NC1909081692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0645 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Martyr Beheshti High School in South Tehran on the first day of the new academic year—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. These are spectacular and hopeful moments for our nation, especially for the youth, adolescents, and children of this country of the imam of the ages. Some 17 million youths and children are commencing the new academic year to learn and to strive to improve themselves and their country. About 850,000 teachers and school officials will today start the new academic year with greater energy and hopes after the summer vacation.

We consider education and training to contribute to our country's reconstruction and advancement. The money the government and the people spend for you, their youth, is a lot. Over 25 percent of the country's general budget—about 256 trillion rials—is used for current and development expenditure in this sector, but this is not enough. We still have schools, where, unfortunately, teaching is carried out by rotation [where the number of pupils is too many for the facilities, half are taught in the morning and half in the afternoon] and there are areas where there are no suitable schools. We have not met our real needs in educational equipment for all our classrooms. And we have not ensured our teachers' livelihood as is fitting and as we would wish.

Effective and serious steps have been taken on all of these. We have rapidly increased credits. We have considerably increased teachers' wages. We are adding about 15,000 classrooms to the country's education system. We have reformed the method of education so that our students can find a suitable vocation. Beginning this year, the first steps will be taken to reform intermediate education so that it will be geared toward offering vocational studies to our students. In 11 schools in this

region, where teaching was carried out in rotation, it will now be carried out in one session and this process will continue. The private sector has entered the scene in a big way and this year many nonprofit-making schools are being built.

With these facilities we have envisaged for education and training, a prologue to universities and higher education, and with the many facilities we have envisaged for higher education, we hope that our country will reach a favorable level of education at the primary, intermediate, and pre-school levels and in the field of higher education, especially in vocational studies.

I sincerely thank you for the affection that you dear ones, the apples of our eye, have shown to us in this school. You will show your true affection to the system if you study hard and make good use of these facilities to build the country's future with your capable hands.

May you succeed. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Sri Lanka

President Claims Assassination Plot Brewing

BK2009060092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0552 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Colombo, Sept 20 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has said unidentified adversaries are planning to assassinate him, a state-run newspaper reported Sunday.

"There is a conspiracy to kill me," Premadasa was quoted as saying by the SUNDAY OBSERVER. The president, who did not elaborate or specify who the assassins may be, said he was prepared to face "whatever consequence that may befall me."

There had been earlier reports about purported plans to assassinate Premadasa who is constantly guarded by a ring of elite commandos of the police Special Task Force.

"The radical economic changes that have been implemented by my government have adversely affected certain parties who are involved in acts of corruption and exploitation," Premadasa said.

25 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed in Jaffna

BK1909115092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Twenty-five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists, including a group leader, have been killed. The incident occurred as the security forces captured the well-fortified LTTE stronghold of Pandattarippu, 2 miles south of Madagal in Jaffna. The air, sea, and ground operation lasted six and a half hours. Madagal was the principal Sea Tiger base which was taken two weeks ago by the troops in a lightning operation. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that three battalions of soldiers were involved in the operation. Twenty terrorist hideouts were destroyed. According to the official sources, the operation codenamed Chaturanga began yesterday and ended by noon and the target, Pandattarippu, was captured under the direction of the army commander, Lieutenant General Cecil Waidyaratna. Mopping-up operations are continuing.

LTTE Attacks Repulsed

BK1609095292 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0853 GMT 16 Sep 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Sep. (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces repulsed LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks on their forward defence localities [FDLs] at Vettilaikerni at Elephant Pass and Nelum Wewa at Welioya in the northern Mullaitivu District Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the abortive attack on the FDLs at Vettilaikerni resulted in terrorists receiving casualties, including the death of the terrorist group's leader, whose portable radio transmitter and the grenade he was carrying was found on his body.

This incident had occurred around 1800 hours (local time) [1230 GMT] Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, a group of LTTE terrorists had tried to infiltrate the FDLs at Nelum Wewa at Weli Oya around 0400 hours (local time) Wednesday morning by trying to move between two security forces' forward bunkers.

This attack, too, was repulsed with heavy firepower.

There were no casualties to government troops while the number of LTTE casualties is not yet known.